

All these years there has been that same longing for information in the breasts of my hon. friend and others, but the longing has not been satisfied. When my hon. friends opposite were in power, why was it not satisfied?

Mr. MACDONALD: That is no answer. What about you?

Mr. FOSTER: I merely mention that to point a moral and adorn a tale. At this time I cannot say just when that proclamation under the agreement will issue. It depends absolutely, first, upon the facility with which we get proper communication. I am absolutely opposed to imposing direct shipment between the West Indian islands and Canada with steamship arrangements such as we have to-day. I am opposed to it personally until we get a fairly good and effective steamship communication. So far as I am concerned, personally, I would be very glad to see direct shipments. At the same time I think we have something to consider with the West Indian islands as well. It is true we have absolute power to make that a condition with regard to imports coming into Canada, and they have the right to make it a condition in regard to imports going into their country. Either of us could do it, and the other need not. But it would be much better if both did it at the same time, because it would give a greater impetus. My reading of the mind of the West Indian islands, as reflected through the delegates was that as soon as satisfactory arrangements are provided they would be favourable to that line of policy, and I myself am very favourable to that line of policy.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Is the Government also favourable?

Mr. FOSTER: I think the Government is favourably disposed to that.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

At six o'clock House took recess.

### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

#### GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC BRANCH LINES.

House in Committee on Bill No. 16, respecting the Grand Trunk Pacific Branch Lines Company.—Mr. McKay.

On section 1—time for construction of railways extended:

Mr. OLIVER: This requires the company to commence construction within two

Mr. FOSTER (N. Toronto).

years and to complete within five years after the passing of this Act, I understand?

Mr. LANCASTER: Perhaps I should explain the effect of the section. They were not using the standard clause that we generally use. There is no change whatever in the result except that the legislation is made consistent with the clause that we always use. We left out what was printed:

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 of chapter 83 of the Statutes of 1911—

and inserted what appears in the section as amended. This is merely a secondary way of repealing a section which is afterwards repealed. The last clause of this Bill repeals this section as to the previous limitation of renewal and we would only have been here repeating if we had left these words in. Therefore we started the section by saying:

The Grand Trunk Pacific Branch Lines Company may, within two years after the passing of this Act, commence the construction of the lines of railway which have heretofore been authorized.

etc. The effect is exactly the same as it was intended to be in the first place.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

#### ALGOMA EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

House in Committee on Bill No. 39, respecting the Algoma Eastern Railway Company.—Mr. Smyth.

On section 2—extension of time for construction of portion of railway:

Mr. LANCASTER: This charter was first granted in 1900, and with respect to the clauses that are now added, I might explain that since then there are standard clauses which are inserted in all these Bills, controlling the exercise of the powers of the company, compelling them to submit their rates to the Board of Railway Commissioners instead of to the Governor in Council, as formerly, and providing that they shall not erect poles on streets and highways, without obtaining the consent of the municipality. The added clauses to this Bill are with the idea of placing the company on the same basis as other similar companies, which have obtained charters during the last three years.

Mr. OLIVER: There are certain regulations by Order in Council for the control of electrical power; are these regulations brought into this Act?

Mr. LANCASTER: Yes. We bring in section 247 of the Railway Act which contains a good many salutary provisions, and we also bring in certain other provisions