

be allowed because of the delay it would involve. As matters have turned out, what delay would it have involved? Parliament might have been summoned a fortnight earlier, if this matter were so urgent, and the people's representatives would then have been in possession of the agreement at the time the representatives of the shareholders of the Grand Trunk in England had it under discussion. May I express to the Government the hope that even now it is not too late to give to this Parliament, as representing the people of Canada, rights equivalent to those given the holders of Grand Trunk Railway stock across the sea, and that the agreement be submitted to Parliament for ratification before the people of Canada become permanently bound by its terms and conditions.

Another essential to the retention by this House of its character as a deliberative assembly, and of parliamentary government as the means of keeping the country through parliament in touch with public business, is that the ministry should be where it can be questioned, and should give the fullest information to the House; and, if at all possible, the Prime Minister should be in his place in the House to answer questions, and speak with authority on matters of government policy.