

that the hon. member (Mr. Ingram) had been on his feet had asked a question and was waiting a reply. This occurred a little after six o'clock. The hon. member (Mr. Ingram) in courtesy to the hon. member for Pictou sat down to wait for a reply, and at that moment the Prime Minister said 'carried' and the chairman of the committee following in the words of the right hon. gentleman said 'carried,' but it was after six o'clock and while the hon. member (Mr. Ingram) was waiting for a reply. If that is the way the proceedings in the Committee of the Whole are carried on we shall have to have a different method. There was not a member of the whole House on either side who understood that the question had been put by the chairman.

Mr. HYMAN. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; I did most distinctly.

Mr. BARKER. The hon. member for London may have understood it.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. So did everybody else.

Mr. BARKER. Perhaps I went too far in saying that not a member of the House so understood, but I say that nearly every member of the House understood that the hon. member for East Elgin was waiting for a reply and I know it was after six o'clock, because I looked at the clock. Now, this is not an ordinary question of a private Bill; this is a question affecting the interests of Canada and we must not have a question of that importance disposed of in that way. I object. It is not in the power of the right hon. gentleman, any more than it is in my power, to call out 'carried' and have a motion carried. The question must come from the chairman of the committee. I do not believe anybody in this House, with the exception of the member for London and perhaps one or two others, understood the question to be carried.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I was sitting here very close to the chairman and I add my testimony to that of the hon. member for London (Mr. Hyman).

Mr. BARKER. I do not object to adding that the hon. gentleman promoting the Bill heard the word.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. My hon. friend (Mr. Barker) must have been suddenly afflicted with deafness if he could not have heard the very definite statement made by the chairman, which was explicit, that the Bill had been carried.

Mr. BARKER. I was listening very intently to every word that passed and I declare that my version of what occurred is correct. If that is the way the Committee of the Whole is to be called upon to decide important questions we ought to know it.

Mr. SPEAKER. Perhaps I had better put the motion so as to have something be-

fore the House. Mr. Macdonald moves that the Bill be now read a third time.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Carried.

Mr. INGRAM. It is not carried. I sat down in order that the hon. gentleman from Pictou might reply to my question. Perhaps I should not have resumed my seat, but I did not expect there would be any sharp practice—

Mr. HYMAN. Order.

Mr. INGRAM. Who says order?

Mr. HYMAN. I do.

Mr. INGRAM. I am quite in order. It was after six o'clock and I was waiting for my hon. friend from Pictou to give an answer. He declined to furnish the information we think necessary, and now I want to give some reasons why the Bill should not be read a third time until we get the information. Every man in this country knows that when the government seeks to get running rights over the Canada Atlantic Railway, the bond issue will be an important factor in the compensation. That being so we should have information to know why the bond issue is being increased. A few years ago we had it stated that the Canada Atlantic were prepared to sell their railway for \$12,000,000, and I wish now to put on the records of the House the state of this railway in the year that offer of sale was made, as I have already put on the records of the House the official returns for the past year. When we have the two sets of figures, members of this House can easily make comparisons whenever the government is asked to pay compensation for these running rights.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I am sure we will be extremely obliged to the hon. gentleman for giving the information, but I wish to say before he does so, that if I was in any way lax in giving information it was largely due to the statement made by my hon. friend (Mr. Ingram) on Friday night, that if the government announced its policy with regard to this road, he then would have no objection to the Bill before the House. If my hon. friend wants any definite information of a practical character, I shall be very glad to give it to him; but my hon. friend need not put on the records of the House information which any member can obtain by simply sending to the distribution office.

Mr. INGRAM. If the hon. gentleman is so eager to furnish information, he could have avoided all this trouble by furnishing it before. He has been asked often enough.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. Let me suggest that if my hon. friend in good faith desires information, that which was given by the Minister of Justice and myself this afternoon ought to be satisfactory to him. He intimated the other night that if the government brought this Bill down and explain-