

constituency lies, and the respect and confidence of whose inhabitants he then earned. In the Department over which I presided, we all liked him, we all loved him, and I can only say that I regret that he has had to come before this House and to make the personal explanation he did. But I am sure the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart) did not mean anything personal, and that as he has made a retraction, I hope my hon. friend from Gaspé will forgive him.

Mr. FORTIN. Certainly, I accept with pleasure the explanations of the hon. member for South Lanark.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.

Mr. HAGGART, in the absence of Mr. ABBOTT, moved that the House resolve itself into Committee on Bill (No. 32) to confirm the lease of the Ontario and Quebec Railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and for other purposes.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I trust this Bill will not be pressed to-night, as I know the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), desires to speak upon it. The hon. gentleman is at present absent from his place, but may return in an hour or so, when it might be taken up.

Mr. HAGGART. I will not press it now, if it is understood by the House that the Bill can be taken up later in the evening; but the promoter of the Bill is very anxious to have it pushed forward, and requested me to move it to-night.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Go on.

Mr. CAMERON. There is nothing to be gained by pressing it to-night. I wish to raise a question of privilege in regard to this Bill, a question which affects the House, and I should prefer the hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Abbott) to be present. The Bill was proposed by the hon. member for Argenteuil, and it was carried to its present stage by that hon. member, and I wish to raise a question of privilege affecting the position of that hon. gentleman in regard to this Bill. I do not like to discuss it in his absence; he is in the city, and I believe was in the House to-day. It is a matter personal to himself.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not see how a question of privilege can arise in any way on a private Bill. If it is a question of privilege, it must be taken up as such, and certainly not in the discussion of a private Bill. However, this order can stand over and be placed at the foot of private Bills, and perhaps the hon. gentleman will be present at that time.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were severally considered in Committee, reported, and read the third time, and passed:

Bill (No. 59) respecting the Northern and North-Western Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. Small.)

Bill (No. 75) respecting the Manitoba South-Western Colonization Railway Company.—(Mr. Ross.)

Bill (No. 80) to amend the Act incorporating the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway Company.—(Mr. Bell.)

Bill (No. 89) to amend the Act incorporating the Great American and European Short Line Railway Company, and to change the name thereof to the Montreal and European Short Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Tupper.)

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.

Mr. HAGGART, in the absence of Mr. Abbott, moved that the House resolve itself into Committee on Bill (No. 32) to confirm the lease of the Ontario and Quebec Railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and for other purposes.

Mr. MITCHELL.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I rise to a point of order. I notice that the Bill stands on the Orders in the name of Mr. Abbott, the hon. member for Argenteuil, and I think it is according to our rules and practice that nobody else can move the Bill. I believe it can be done by another person in the case of public Bills, but not in the case of private Bills. The promoter of the Bill must move it himself.

Mr. SPEAKER. The English practice is that a member cannot move any Bill for another, if it is opposed in any way.

Mr. HAGGART. If a public Bill can be moved by another person I do not see but that the same rule should apply to private Bills.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, Chair.

Mr. ABBOTT moved that the House resolve itself into Committee on the Bill.

Mr. CAMERON. Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair I submit a question of privilege, a question of very considerable importance, a question which affects the independence of Parliament as well as the dignity and independence of members of this House. It is generally known, it is stated, I believe, in the public press, that the mover of this Bill, the hon. member for Argenteuil (Mr. Abbott) is the solicitor, the advocate, the standing counsel of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. It is understood that in that position the hon. gentleman prepares all agreements, all documents, concerning the affairs of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and prepares such Bills, advises upon such Bills, as it may be necessary to submit to Parliament by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, in the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and under his engagement as the advocate, the solicitor, or the standing counsel of the Company. Now, it is understood that this Bill which the hon. gentleman introduced, of which he moved the second reading, and promoted before the Railway Committee, was prepared by the hon. gentleman, advised on by the hon. gentleman, in his position as standing counsel, advocate, or solicitor of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. If that is the fact, it is strange that the hon. gentleman should have introduced this Bill, moved its second reading, and moved it so far; because the hon. gentleman appears to occupy a peculiar position in relation to this Bill, and to all other matters of legislation in this House, in which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are concerned. Of course, as a member of Parliament, as the representative of the county of Argenteuil, he is bound to bring to the consideration of this and all other questions, a free and unbiassed judgment. As the solicitor of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as their counsel, their advocate, of course he is bound to advocate their interests. Now, I submit that it is a difficult matter for a member of Parliament occupying that position, when he comes within the walls of this Chamber, to lay aside his professional capacity, and to assume that free and independent position which every member of Parliament is expected to assume when he comes to deal with questions before this House. Now, I wish to raise the question here, whether or not the hon. member for Argenteuil, if he is the paid solicitor of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has a right to move this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER. I might ask the hon. gentleman if he is going to raise a question of privilege as to this Bill?

Mr. CAMERON. As to this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not consider that this is the time to raise a question of privilege relating to this Bill. The question of a member's seat can at all times be brought up, but a question relating to a Bill cannot be brought up while it is under the consideration of the House.