

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Bill (164), "An Act to authorize the granting of the subsidies therein mentioned in aid of the construction of certain railways," was introduced and read the first and second time under suspension of the rule.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—This Bill proposes to grant certain aid to several railways that are mentioned therein.

HON. MR. FLINT—My reason for rising to make the remarks which I am now about to address to the House is that I do not think I have been fairly treated in reference to this matter. When the Napanee and Tamworth Railway Bill came up for amendment to allow the company to extend the road via Bogart to Bridgewater, it was placed in my hands to do all in my power to have it pass through the Senate. I did so, and the Bill was passed. Then I was to do all I could to get a grant towards the building of that railway. As a matter of course I saw the Minister of Railways, Sir Charles Tupper, and had a conversation with him, and he assured me that we should have a grant of \$3,200 a mile for the road from Tamworth to Bridgewater. That sum was voted two sessions ago, but last year nothing was done with it. The company did not move in the matter, because they thought that they had not means enough to go on with construction, and the consequence was the project was allowed to stand for a while. During that session the promoters came to me and consulted with me about it. The principal men stopped at the same place that I did, and we conferred together with reference to what was to be done. They asked for my assistance and got it. At the conclusion of this year when they came down, instead of coming to see me, they never came near me, and I knew nothing of what was going on until after they had seen the Minister of Railways; and then

Mr. Tuttle, from Bridgewater, who was one of the deputation, came to me and told me what was going on. He said that he had had a conversation with the Minister of Railways, who assured me that nothing would be done to the injury of Bridgewater in consequence of the money being granted before; but now I find that the sum of \$3,200 a mile is increased to \$70,000 and Bridgewater is cut off, the road going to Bogart, some four miles short of where it was intended to go. I do not say anything as far as the Government are concerned; but the parties who induced me to interest myself in the matter have treated me very unfairly. As soon as I saw the bill, not being able to go and see Mr. Pope, the Minister of Railways, I wrote to Mr. Bowell, who was interested, as part of the money is to be expended in his constituency, and afterwards I got a letter from the Minister of Railways in which he seemed not to understand the thing—whether he did or not I cannot say. It showed that they could not grant any more money this year but they granted \$6,000 more than they did before, which makes the grant in aid of the road considerably over \$4,000 a mile. I also received a letter from Mr. Bowell stating that he had spoken to the Minister of Railways on the subject and that they could not give any further grant this year. This is the position in which the matter stands. I think I have been very unfairly treated by parties who got me to take charge of the Bill, and who got me to induce the Government to make a grant to the road two years ago, and now I find that Bridgewater is left out in the cold. I have made these remarks in order that they may go into the official report so that the parties interested may have an opportunity of seeing them. I dare say the parties require all the money they have got, and more, to construct the road where it has to go.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The only explanation I have to offer is this,—that the desire of the railway company and their interests lead very strongly in the interest of the public to their making a connection with the Pacific Railway, and by the extension which they are now assisted in making as far as Bogart, they will there make that connection. That