

serve another purpose. On what grounds are we asked for this appropriation? Because this road will go to Hudson's Bay? Not at all, but because it will go to some point on the Saskatchewan, and the justification is that it will afford accommodation to some parties who have settled west of Lake Winnipegosis. That is not an enterprise we are prepared to aid by large contributions from the public treasury. The circumstances of the country, the state of the public revenue, the policy it may be necessary to adopt in the future—all make it improper to inaugurate further burdens and responsibilities of this sort, and impose further permanent burdens on the public treasury. The people of this country ought to be free for the purpose of determining what taxation they will endure, and what policy they will adopt in the future. Those who are rotting in the churchyards ought not to be taken any longer to govern those who are sitting in the pews. That is the policy that hon. gentlemen opposite are marking out for the people of this country, and it ought not to be tolerated any longer.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Had I been here when this motion was moved, I would certainly have taken the opportunity of remonstrating with the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government generally on the very extraordinary course they have seen fit to pursue with respect to the present debate. They are well aware that the motion I have moved is in the nature of a motion of want of confidence. They have so accepted and treated it, and they must know that the invariable practice of the House has, for obvious reasons, always been, although it is not a law of Parliament, that when a motion of that kind is moved, unless some extraordinary occasions of urgency arises, such as arose here owing to the termination of the fiscal year, that the Government should go on with the motion of want of confidence and have that decided before proceeding to ordinary business. That is, as everybody knows, the invariable practice of the English House of Commons; and has been ours, unless some extraordinary case arises, in which both parties are agreed as we were the other day. I really think the hon. Minister of Finance ought to terminate this matter and allow us to proceed with the regular business of the Budget debate, which ought to be got rid of; and I would suggest, as it is quite clear this thing may go on *in secula seculorum*, the Committee should rise and we should proceed with our ordinary business, or else the Government should explain why it is they depart so strangely from the ordinary custom of Parliament.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a little late in the day for my hon. friend to raise this objection. In the first place, he was not in his place when the debate arose and the House went into Committee, and a very large part of the discussion has taken place.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. By no means.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will consider, he will recollect that five or six days ago this question came up, and my hon. colleague, the Minister of the Interior, explained the urgency for the passage of the Bill. His resolution was passed, and the Bill is founded on that resolution. At the time my hon. friend had no objection on the ground that his motion was pending, although it was then pending as it is to-day. He, however, took the ground that certain information which he thought the

House should be in possession of, had not been given to it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Has it been yet?

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend the Minister of the Interior has the information, and I understand he has so stated across the House.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. No.

Mr. FOSTER. He has the information which, he thinks, ought at least to be satisfactory to any reasonable judgment of the House. Now, although I agree with my hon. friend that it is not usual to take up any important legislation whilst a motion of want of confidence is pending, the House came to a tacit agreement the other day, that this Bill, being a matter of importance and urgency, might be taken up and disposed of; and as no objection on the ground taken by the hon. gentleman was made then, but delay was merely asked in order that information might be brought, my hon. friend is rather late now in making his objection.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. In the first place, the information asked for, and which we understood would be brought down, has not been brought down; and, in the second place, I certainly did think that the Government would have proceeded with the debate on the Budget before going further with this other matter. I did not think it necessary to state to the Government, containing old and experienced parliamentarians, what the practice of Parliament was. They knew that as well as I. However, if it be their desire to go on with the discussion, so be it. It then becomes our duty to enquire minutely into the position of this road, and ascertain what surveys have been made, what the Government can tell us as to the probable cost, and what are the grounds on which they ask for this Bill. In short, on what we may reasonably expect this road can be constructed, if we make this grant, and why they deem it expedient to single this out, which, it now appears, is not a grant for the purpose of building a railway to the Hudson's Bay, but, as stated by several speakers, really for a colonization road. Those matters we can go into in detail, but this is a very inconvenient mode of dealing with an important debate affecting questions of public policy of the highest order, and I would like to know when the hon. gentleman thinks that, with all these interruptions, we are likely to terminate it. Even supposing, which is not likely, that we will get through this matter by six, you will have just one speech to-night, or at the most two, and there are a score of gentlemen known to me who are desirous of expressing their opinions on the motion of want of confidence; and the hon. gentleman knows that after this Bill goes through Committee, if it comes up for third reading, there will be further amendments and discussions. I must say I cannot possibly see what urgency there is for a matter of this kind, and I think a strict case of urgency ought to be made out before our existing debate is interfered with for the purpose of discussing this matter.

Mr. FOSTER. Under the circumstances, which I related briefly before, I think it would be well at this stage to put the Bill through Committee.