

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Wednesday, July 8th 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE SHORT LINE RAILWAY.

MOTION.

HON. MR. POWER moved

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying His Excellency to cause to be laid before this House, copies of the Petitions of the County Council of the County of Drummond, in the Province of Quebec, and of other Petitions asking for a Survey of the Central or Richmond route, for the proposed Short Line Railway from Montreal to St. John and Halifax.

He said: For various reasons I have not had time to be brief in connection with the notice I have given. I am very sorry, but I have preferred to speak to this motion to-day rather than to defer it until to-morrow, because I see from the notice paper that there is very little business before us to-day, and our time is likely to be fully occupied to-morrow. I need hardly remind hon. members that the Statute of 1884 provided a subsidy for a line of railway from Montreal to the ports of St. John and Halifax by the shortest and best practicable route to be ascertained after the surveys of engineers. Now, I wish hon. gentlemen to bear that in mind: that the object of the subsidy was not a short line to St. Andrews; it was not a short line to any port in the State of Maine—but it was the shortest and best practicable line from Montreal to St. John and Halifax.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Does the hon. gentleman not think that we might better discuss this when the Bill for the short line is before us.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think so.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—No body can reply or explain now.

HON. MR. POWER—I think it is the same thing to the Minister. There is not much to be done to-day, and what I have to say to-day will not be said to-morrow when the Bill comes up, so that the thing is about as broad as it is long; and further I think it well that the Minister should be in possession of the views that are entertained by a great many persons on the subject before he introduces the Bill here; and he will be in a better position then to answer those objections than if he did not know what they were.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—The policy of the Government might be changed by it.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not think the policy of the Government is likely to be changed by what I say, but the Minister will understand better what objections there are to the policy.

HON. MR. PLUMB—They will be instructed by the hon. gentleman.

HON. MR. POWER—I dwelt on this matter at some length in March last, when moving for surveys and reports which have been since laid on the Table of the Senate, and I do not wish to trouble the House with repeating what I then said. The return shows that as far as I went I was pretty accurate then, although my statements were made without official information; and it shows too that there was no survey made of the shortest line—the line of which I spoke—by the central route; and on this point I ask to be allowed to read a portion of an article which appeared in one of our Nova Scotia papers, when Mr. Schreiber's report on the short line was first made public. This article puts the thing more tersely and better than I could by far.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Who is the author of the report?

HON. MR. POWER—The paper I am reading from is the Halifax *Herald*, which is an organ of the Government.

HON. MR. PLUMB—Who is the author of the article?