

private Bills will be up before the House again, and in the meantime the minister will have an opportunity of introducing the Bill that is on the order paper and of giving a statement in connection with that Bill. The hon. gentleman says that in the Railway Committee there was no objection and practically no question in connection with these two Bills, that passed through without any question. I think we have the word of the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals that there was an understanding when the Bills passed through the Railway Committee, that when this Bill was before the House the Minister of Railways would make a statement as to the government's policy on this question.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. At any rate my hon. friend was here on Wednesday when the statement was made.

Mr. INGRAM. I am always here.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. How much more statement do you want?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does my hon. friend fully understand the policy of the government?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I am not in the secrets of the government.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I mean from the statements made.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I think everyone understood that the Minister of Railways announced that the government intended to take certain running powers over this railway from Montreal to Parry Sound and that the exact particulars of what was proposed would be contained in the Bill 'An Act to amend the Government Railway Act.'

Mr. INGRAM. If my hon. friend (Mr. E. M. Macdonald) is satisfied with the statement of the Minister of Railways on Wednesday evening, he is very easily satisfied. Members on this side desire information from the minister as to the government's policy and the minister told us that he would be in a position to give it.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Ingram) allow me to ask if he desires to discuss this private Bill and the government measure at the same time?

Mr. INGRAM. My hon. friend does not understand the rules of the House or he would not ask that question.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. That is what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ingram) wants to do. I understand the rules.

Mr. INGRAM. Will the hon. gentleman tell me how we can possibly discuss these two Bills at the same time?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. That is what the hon. gentleman is trying to do.

Mr. INGRAM.

Mr. INGRAM. Not at all. What I want is a statement from the Minister of Railways and Canals of the policy of the government on this question. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. E. M. Macdonald) remember that this question has been up for years. Hon. Mr. Blair, whom hon. gentlemen opposite have declared to be the greatest Minister of Railways Canada has ever had, stated his views with respect to the Canada Atlantic Railway. And, now that the government, apparently do not intend to amend this Bill but to introduce a separate measure, we have a right to know, before this Bill is dealt with, what that policy is. The hon. gentleman (Mr. E. M. Macdonald) proposes that we shall lock the stable door after the horse is stolen. If the government's policy is satisfactory, the members on this side will have no objection to allowing this Bill to pass; but we have a right to know what is to be done. We have been here for some years, and we know something of the government's policy in buying railways and arranging running rights, and, to avoid, if possible, another of the blunders that they have made, we should know what the government's policy is. The Minister of Railways agreed on Wednesday to state the government's policy, and he has now an opportunity to do so. If on Monday he introduces the other Bill and states his policy, we shall then be in a position to discuss the two Bills intelligently. In the meantime no interest can suffer if this Bill is not dealt with at once.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon. friend from Pictou (Mr. E. M. Macdonald) must know that the policy of his party, or at least, leading members of his party in the maritime provinces for some years has been to acquire the Canada Atlantic Railway as part of the Intercolonial. The hon. gentleman will not say that he is ignorant of that.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I am not aware that the policy of a portion of the Liberal party is the policy of the party.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does he not regard Mr. Russell the former member for Hants as a prominent member of the party?

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I only recognize one policy as the policy of the party, and that is the policy of my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who leads this House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does not my hon. friend recognize a policy announced by the Minister of Railways and Canals as a policy of the party? The Minister of Railways and Canals was known to be in favour of that policy. The gentleman who is now Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Emerson), as a private member, two or three years ago, advocated the very policy to which I have referred. In my hearing in this House, he advocated the acquisition of