

judgment. These are the reasons why I think it is undesirable to proceed with the consideration of this Bill, at all events, to pass this Bill, until we really know what the proposal of the government is. As the Minister of Railways and Canals has once more returned to the House, might I venture to inquire from him whether he thinks he will be able to make, on Monday, those explanations of the government measure which, on Wednesday last, he expected to make to-day.

Mr. EMMERSON. I expect to be able to introduce a Bill on Monday, I was unable to do so before, owing to a press of other matters. I would suggest that this Bill be allowed to go through the committee and stand for the third reading, and it may stand for the third reading until I have made my explanations. I am sure the situation could not be in any way affected by that course, and we will be expediting the business of the House. The company, of course, is not responsible for the action taken by the government, and I do not think that we should put any more obstacles in their way than is possible.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not want my hon. friend to think that I was putting any obstacles in the way while he was out of the House.

Mr. EMMERSON. I beg your pardon for having had to be out, it was a matter of urgency, and I am sorry I was not present to hear my hon. friend's remarks.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I will sum up in a few words what I said. I said that it had been the hon. gentleman's policy, and it had been the policy of prominent members of the Liberal party in the past to acquire the Canada Atlantic as an extension of the Intercolonial to Georgian bay. The hon. gentleman will remember that he advocated that three years ago, I think, in this House, other prominent members of his party have done the same thing, and we have advocated it on this side of the House. I pointed out to the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) that the government might yet conclude that it is the best policy, and that it would be meaningless, absurd, and an inconceivable thing that they should pass this legislation and then in the same session and in the next breath pass an Act authorizing us to take over this railway, to acquire it absolutely as the property of the government. Therefore, it seemed to me to be only a reasonable thing that we should under these circumstances, hear the minister's explanation before passing this Bill. I would think that that view would commend itself to my hon. friend; because, although he has to bow, I suppose, to the opinion of the majority of the cabinet in this regard, I feel so fully convinced of the soundness of the judgment of my hon. friend on this matter, as announced in this House, that I

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

believe at the present moment, if he were able absolutely to mould the policy of the cabinet in this regard, he would tell my hon. friend from Pictou not to press this legislation, because he proposes to bring down a Bill authorizing this government to take over that railway from Montreal to Parry Sound and to operate it as a part of the Intercolonial. I am sure that I can rely sufficiently on the sincerity of my hon. friend to justify me in expecting that he will now stand up in this House and say that that is still his opinion and that if he could have his own way as to the policy of the government he would adopt that very policy which he so ably advocated about three years ago in this House.

Mr. EMMERSON. That is departing from the suggestion which I made. The Bill need not pass now, but it can go through committee, and thus expedite business and then stand for the third reading, before which time the government Bill will be before the House, and I will have made my explanations. I know my hon. friend is always very sincere, as I am.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon friend pays me a high compliment.

Mr. EMMERSON. I trust he cannot outmatch me in a matter of sincerity.

The hour for private Bills having expired, the Speaker took the chair.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed consideration of the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for the second reading of Bill (No. 69), to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden thereto.

Mr. HAUGHTON LENNOX (South Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, when you left the chair at six o'clock I was directing the attention of the House to an important statement made by the Hon. Colin Campbell, the attorney general of the province of Manitoba, and I was pointing out that an unfortunate state of things had arisen, namely, that the memory of the right hon. leader of the government conflicted with the memory of the two members of the cabinet of the province of Manitoba on several important matters. I was intending to pursue the matter a little further and to point out some other circumstances in the same line. But I have probably said enough to direct the attention of the House to the fact that it is not after all so much a question of defective memory, as of the fact that the government has so conducted this business, both in the House and out of it, that we have the spectacle to-day of a serious conflict, not only between the right hon. gentleman and the premier of the Northwest Territories, but with two mem-