

Catholic public schools. But the only Catholic schools that exist at present in the Northwest Territories, and the only ones for which provision is made by this amendment, are nine separate schools; and the only provision you make, if you adopt the amendment proposed by the Prime Minister—which in my opinion has been imposed on the government by the late Minister of the Interior—is a provision to guarantee those nine schools to the Catholics, with one-half hour for religious instruction. After eight o'clock I will deal with other provisions of the ordinances of 1892 and 1901, and will show that so far as the teaching of French is concerned, they afford no guarantee whatever.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS.

VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND EASTERN RAILWAY AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

House in committee on Bill (No. 139) respecting the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company.—Mr. D. Ross.

On the preamble,

Mr. SPROULE. Is the government prepared to make any announcement regarding this Bill? The principle involved in it must be settled in this House.

Mr. EMMERSON. I suggest that the committee take up the other sections of the Bill excepting the 3rd, and by the time we take up the Bill again I will be in a position to announce the decision arrived at.

Mr. BARKER. I would suggest that the minister reserve section 4 as well as 3. We know why the minister proposes to reserve section 3, it was a suggestion made the other day in committee. In four provision is made for agreements between this company and companies in the States. I think the government would do well to consider that with the changes that they may make in section 3, because it might be possible under section 4 to do away with the safeguards that may be provided by the government in section 3.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. The companies referred to in clause 4 are Canadian companies and Canadian lines, not American companies.

Mr. BARKER. It cannot do any harm to keep them. You have contracts with companies in the States, they are or may be traffic contracts, and the Minister of Railways knows that you may by traffic contracts do everything you could by the ownership of the railways.

Mr. BOURASSA.

Mr. EMMERSON. I see no objection to letting 3 and 4 stand.

On section 5,

Mr. HENDERSON. It was suggested by some person in the Railway Committee that an amendment should be made to section 5. I am not sure whether the promoter of the Bill had considered this or not. I will read the amendment, and if he approves of it, it can be put in; if not, I will not offer any opposition to it:

The construction of the railway shall be commenced within two years after the passing of this Act, and the said railways which the company is authorized to build shall be finished and put in operation within five years after the passing of this Act.

The remainder of the clause is the same. The words struck out were in the first line 'authorized by the said Act of the province of British Columbia and by this Act, may.' I would ask the promoter of the Bill if he has considered the nature of this amendment, and whether he desires an amendment along that line. I understood the clause was desired in order to conform with the requirements of the Railway Committee.

Mr. EMMERSON. If any one had the intention of proposing such an amendment he did not make it known before the committee. I would call my hon. friend's attention to the fact that section 5 as now in the Bill is the standard section, and I think if we adopt the amendment it would be a departure from the course invariably pursued by the committee with respect to all Railway Bills.

Mr. HENDERSON. The amendment which was drafted and put into my hands seems to be for the improvement of the Bill, to make it conform with what is generally done in the Railway Committee. The clause makes reference to the construction of the railway authorized by the said Act of the province of British Columbia. Now are we not making a provision for the construction of the railway authorized by this Act? It seems to me that the clause offered is a limited clause, and will not in the event of section 3 being adopted cover the whole ground. However, I am not going to press the matter.

Mr. SPROULE. Clause 5 speaks of two companies:

The construction of the said railways authorized by the said Act of the province of British Columbia and by this Act may be commenced within two years—

Is the railway not already commenced?

An hon. MEMBER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Then why do we say it should be commenced within two years? It is proper to say that it should be finished within five years.

Mr. GALLIHER. I think that one of the objects of section 1 of this Act was to cure