

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 4, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

VANCOUVER, VICTORIA AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS (Yale-Cariboo) moved:

That the petition of John Hendry, presented this day, praying to be permitted to lay before the House the petition of the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway Company, praying for an Act to extend the time for the commencement and completion of their railway, notwithstanding the expiration of the time for receiving petitions for private Bills, be now read and received and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Before that motion is adopted, I wish merely to draw attention to the fact that this petition comes in at an extremely late date, and after the time for the presentation of petitions and introduction of private Bills has been twice extended. When an application of that nature is made, some exceptional reason should be given why the House should depart from its well-understood rule. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Duncan Ross) has given no reason whatever.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. Mr. Speaker, in 1897 an Act was passed by the provincial legislature of the province of British Columbia incorporating the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company. In 1898 an Act was passed by this parliament declaring the works of this company to be works for the general advantage of Canada. In 1902 and 1904 extensions of time for the commencement and completion of the work were granted by this parliament. Since then some fifty miles of the railway has been constructed and arrangements are now being made to complete the road. In the course of making the necessary financial arrangements, the question was raised whether the charter rights of the company had not expired because of a certain omission in the legislation secured in this parliament. In order to remove this doubt—and the question was never raised until two or three days ago—the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway Company come to this parliament and ask for the legislation necessary to that end. It is purely a technical matter. But the working of the company and the financial arrangements now about to be completed will be affected unless this legislation goes through.

Motion agreed to.

BILL WITHDRAWN.

Bill (No. 4) to amend the Railway Act, 1903.—Mr. W. F. Maclean.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE.

KASLO AND LARDO-DUNCAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. W. A. GALLIHER (Kootenay) moved:

That the petition of Robert Irving, presented this day, praying to be permitted to lay before the House the petition of the Kaslo and Lardo-Duncan Railway Company, for the passing of an Act to extend the time for the completion of their railway, notwithstanding the expiration of the time for presenting petitions for private Bills, be now read and received and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Explain, please.

Mr. GALLIHER. I must admit, with reference to this matter, that probably the default was due to the solicitor of the company. Mr. Irving is the manager of the company. They obtained an Act of incorporation, and have already expended on construction something like \$200,000, and they now ask to have the time for completion extended. If the petition was not presented within the time limit that is due to an oversight on the part of the solicitor, and it seems to me that the shareholders should not on that account be precluded from deriving any benefit from the moneys they have expended, as will be the case if this petition be not granted.

Mr. SPROULE. Would the time for completion expire before next session?

Mr. GALLIHER. Yes.

Motion agreed to.

KASLO AND LARDO-DUNCAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. ROBERT MACPHERSON moved:

That the petition of Robert Irving, presented this day, praying to be permitted to lay before the House the petition of the Kaslo and Lardo-Duncan Railway Company for the passing of an Act to extend the time for the completion of their railway, notwithstanding the expiration of the time for presenting petitions for private Bills, be read and received forthwith and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Motion agreed to.

MANITOBA BOUNDARY EXTENSION.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I observe that a return brought down giving copies of petitions and memorials from the legislative assembly of Manitoba and the executive of that province regarding the extension of the boundary of Manitoba contains an order of the Governor General in Council of the 21st March, 1905. I would like to ask my right hon. friend whether there has been any reply to that Order in Council from the executive government of the province of Manitoba.