

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I am very much gratified that my persevering efforts have at last been rewarded with success; I doubt very much if my right hon. friend would have screwed up enough courage if we had not stirred him up from day to day. However, I do not know that we can congratulate him very much on his courage after all, for it has taken six or seven weeks to bring it to the sticking point. It would seem to have been equally possible to have made this appointment some four, or five, or six weeks ago, and to have had the advantage of a Minister of the Interior during the discussion on this Bill. I do not know whether I am called upon to congratulate my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott). He was pointed out to us by the Liberal press of the country as the gentleman who, above all others, was fitted to fill this position, and we were told in pretty plain and distinct terms that he would be selected. The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) told us, just about as distinctly as such things are ever told in this House, that the late member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) was to fill the position of Prime Minister of one of the western provinces. The programme was very pretty—my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) was to be Minister of the Interior and Mr. Oliver was to be Prime Minister of one of the western provinces. That was the programme laid down by the government press, and it would be interesting to know why that programme has been so abruptly and suddenly changed. However, we are glad that the government have at last taken some action. I do not know whether my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) has in his pocket a letter of the description which was given some years ago to Mr. Francois Langelier, of Quebec, telling him what would be done at the end of the session. I sincerely trust that my hon. friend (Mr. Scott) has some oral or written assurance of that kind. Be that as it may, on this side of the House we can only wait and see what the developments will be.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny). Now that the challenge of the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) has been accepted by the member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver), I wish to know if the resignation of the hon. member for South York has been tendered to Mr. Speaker. The absence of the hon. gentleman (Mr. W. F. Maclean) might indicate that; but, of course, I would like to know officially.

Mr. J. H. G. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I thought that I might be out of order had I referred to this subject, but the remarks of the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. A. Lavergne) have given me an opportunity to speak. I may remind my hon. friend that some years ago Mr. Oliver, the new Minister of the Interior, was in a very ugly mood towards the Galicians who settled in

his county. I am now informed there are now about 7,000 of these settlers, who are very good voters, and I have no doubt Mr. Oliver would not have accepted the portfolio unless he were able to count on the vote of these same Galicians. I commend to hon. gentlemen opposite the pages of 'Hansard,' in which they will find some very threatening language used by Mr. Oliver against these Galicians, but I have no doubt he will find them good enough now to try and get their votes.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. That is not much of an answer to my question.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

LANDS IN NEW PROVINCES—INTERVIEW WITH MR. BULYEA.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I notice that in an interview given by Mr. Bulyea, one of the members of the government of the Northwest Territories, which is to be found in the columns of the Regina 'Standard,' of date April 5th, 1905, there is this paragraph:

Besides, the Dominion government retaining the land, it naturally devolves upon them to assume the responsibility of opening up and developing the country and railways will have to go to them for assistance. During the conference the members of the federal government agreed to assume this responsibility.

The only part of the interview I desire to call attention to is this paragraph, so that I do not feel it necessary to read the whole. I wish to inquire from the Prime Minister whether or not, in addition to that which appears on the face of the Bill, there is any agreement or understanding such as that which is referred to in the paragraph of the interview which I have quoted?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not know that there is any agreement upon that. I am sure there is not; but in the discussions which took place, we stated that the policy of the government with regard to railway subsidies would be the same as usual, and would not be departed from so far as parliament would come to a conclusion on it. That is all there is on that subject.

PRIVATE BILLS.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY COMPANY.

House in committee on Bill (No. 45) respecting the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada.—Mr. E. M. Macdonald.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Shall I report the Bill?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not hear the preamble adopted.

Mr. BRODEUR. It was adopted some days ago.

Mr. INGRAM. At the last sitting of the committee the preamble was carried, but clause No. 1 was under discussion.