

COMMITTEE ROOM 429,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, June 25, 1924.

The Select Standing Committee on National Railways and Shipping met at 10.30 o'clock a.m., Mr. W. D. Euler, M.P., Chairman, Presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, if you will come to order; we have a quorum. We had proposed to go on with the accounts but I am informed we have a gentleman here this morning who is prepared to give us some further information with regard to the purchase of the property in Paris. I do not like to go on in the absence of Sir Henry Drayton. What is the pleasure of the Committee? Do you wish to go on with the examination of the witness or go on with the accounts.

Mr. STEWART: Could we take up a few more accounts and then revert to the Scribe matter?

The CHAIRMAN: Then we will go on with the accounts. Mr. Roseyear is here. Now, I do not know just what particular procedure you want to follow in connection with this. We had discussed pretty well the summary on page 5. Following that there is the report under the various headings. Do you want to go on with those or go right into the figures? We have on page 6 some information with regard to gross earnings, operating expenses, and so on.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Are those not really the details of what appears on page 5?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I suppose it is in the nature of comment of what appears on the following pages.

Mr. STEWART: We were on page 19 when we adjourned the other day,—the details of Maintenance of Way and Structures.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall we go through this report in some sort of a systematic way from the beginning? Do you want to examine the balance sheet, the assets and liabilities? That appears on pages 14 and 15. Then we could go on with the profit and loss statement, and the income statement just as it appears in the full report. I think we ought to go on from the beginning and have some sort of continuity.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: We want to get through this week, that is sure. When I left yesterday you were discussing the question of maintenance of way and structures, to get some information on those. Those were questioned in the House. The accuracy—perhaps that is the wrong word—not the accuracy of figures, but the apparent fact that there was less expended on the maintenance of way and maintenance of equipment than there was the year before, and the reasons were being given yesterday when I left.

Mr. KYTE: I think Sir Henry Thornton finished that up pretty well. Sir Henry Drayton asked for the monthly statement of income and expenditure saying that by so doing he might shorten the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN: That discussion came about directly in this way, as I recollect it: we were looking at page 5, the summary of expenses, and the first item was maintenance of way and structures. We discussed that in a general way and then went on with the details on page 19. If you want to finish that, well and good, and then we could go back to the other, maintenance of equipment, and discuss that in detail. And then on to "Traffic" and "Transportation", just as it appears in the record.

Major BELL: Sir Henry (Drayton) went over all these monthly statements yesterday afternoon with Mr. Henry.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied with what we have had on maintenance of way and structures?