

Supply—Railways—C.N.R.

Mr. GARDINER: I understood the minister to say that they had asked the Board of Grain Commissioners to make inquiry in United States ports. What we desire to know is what was the result of that inquiry.

Mr. ROBB: Well, offhand, the information that was brought back to us confirmed our own view, namely, that we have no control in the United States over grain, once it is cleared from Buffalo. It is true the grain goes through the United States in bond, but that is for the protection of the people of the United States themselves. So it comes down to this—if grain is shipped to Liverpool direct from Canada and then from Liverpool to France and the complaint comes to us from France that it is not up to standard, we have no control over it because it had reached the Liverpool port—beyond our country.

Mr. GARDINER: I quite understand we have no control—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. GARDINER: All right, Mr. Speaker; I will put the question directly. Will the minister tell us just exactly what they found with regard to the adulteration of Canadian grain in American ports? That is the point we want to get at; we want to know just exactly—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order; I did not stop the hon. member at first because I thought he was putting another question. But assuredly no debate can arise on a question put to a minister of the Crown before the Orders of the Day are called.

Mr. GARDINER: If I have transgressed the rules of the House, Sir, I desire to apologize. I was putting a question to the minister and I wanted to get the reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know the hon. gentleman was proceeding in good faith, but I must see that the rules of the House are observed.

SUPPLY

RAILWAYS AND CANALS

The House in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Railways and Canals—chargeable to income:

Amount not exceeding \$73,000,000 to meet expenditures made or indebtedness incurred (where amounts available from net operating earnings may be insufficient) by or on behalf of the Canadian National Railway Company, hereinafter called "the company", or any company specified in the First Schedule to the act incorporating the Canadian National Railway Company, being chapter 13 of the Statutes of Canada, 1919, or by the company in respect of any railways, properties or works entrusted to the company from time to time under the provisions of section 11 of the

[Mr. Robb.]

said chapter 13 of the Statutes of Canada, 1919, or by or on behalf of any company specified or referred to in chapter 13 of the Statutes of Canada, 1920; or any one or more of them, on any of the following accounts:—

- (a) Operating deficits whenever incurred or ascertained.
- (b) Acquisition of property, materials and supplies.
- (c) Interest and sinking funds on notes, securities or obligations.
- (d) Principal and interest of maturing or matured loans secured or unsecured.
- (e) Construction and betterments.
- (f) Co-ordination or consolidation of railway lines and facilities.
- (g) Guarantees of securities.

The amount herein authorized may be applied from time to time, in the discretion of the Governor in Council:—

(a) To meet expenditures made or indebtedness incurred by the Company in respect of railways, properties and works entrusted to the company as aforesaid.

(b) By way of loans in cash, or by way of guarantee, or partly one way and partly the other, subject, however, as follows:—

If by way of loans, the amount or amounts advanced shall be repayable on demand, with interest at the rate fixed by the Governor in Council, from time to time, payable half-yearly, secured if and when directed by the Governor in Council by mortgage or mortgages upon such properties in such form and containing such terms and conditions, not inconsistent herewith, as the Governor in Council may approve.

If by way of guarantee, any such guarantee may be of the principal and interest of the notes and obligations or securities of one or more of the said companies specified by the Governor in Council, and may be signed by the Minister of Finance, on behalf of His Majesty, in such form and on such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council may determine to be appropriate and applicable thereto, \$73,000,000.

Mr. SHAW: In connection with the matter under discussion last night, the purchase of the two-million-dollar hotel in Paris, I would like to ask the minister whether or not the board of directors of the Canadian National Railway Company have approved of the purchase as made.

Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways and Canals): Some two months ago the question of getting proper quarters in Paris, I am informed, was discussed at a meeting of the board, and approved. I do not think this special transaction has yet been brought before the board for approval.

Mr. IRVINE: Will the minister give the committee an idea of the service to be rendered to the Canadian National, or to the Canadian nation for that matter, by this purchase?

Mr. GRAHAM: The only answer I can give to my hon. friend is that the Canadian National has had no headquarters in Paris and it is the judgment of the Canadian National Company that such headquarters are greatly needed for the good of the Canadian National system.