

## HANNA AGAINST TELLING C. P. R. RAIL SECRETS

Trouble Enough With Competitor Without Revealing All the Business.

### FIRST MEETING OF THE RAIL BOARD

Committee Given Permission to Meet While Commons is in Session.

Ottawa, Ont., April 14.—The preliminary committee appointed to investigate Government railways and maritime railways, met for the first time this morning. Major-General Mewburn was appointed chairman and J. A. Stewart (Lamark), vice-chairman.

Discussion throughout the morning's proceedings turned on the nature of the evidence to be placed before the committee. The first point was whether the committee before proceeding should wait for the annual report of the board of management of the Government railways, which is now in the hands of the printers. A. J. Mitchell, vice-president of the Government railways, in charge of finance, informed the committee that the report was similar to the annual report presented by the C. P. R. to its shareholders and the material therein was covered in the statement submitted to the House by the minister of railways. After some discussion, the committee thereupon decided that all material so far made available by the minister of railways should be compiled and distributed among members of the committee, and that the committee should proceed on this pending printing of the annual report. The main question, D. R. Hanna added, was how the business of the road should be disclosed for the information and benefit of "our great competitor, the C. P. R."

"I would like to emphasize," said Mr. Hanna, "that the board of man-

## France Replies To Note Regarding Yap

Paris, April 14.—Premier Briand has dispatched to Washington a note acknowledging receipt of the communication from the United States State Department regarding the mandate over Pacific Islands north of the equator which was given to Japan. The premier's note says a representative of France will take up the question when it comes before the Supreme Allied Council "with the most ardent desire to find a solution giving satisfaction to the United States."

The British side  
London, April 14.—Several members of the House of Commons made an attempt in the House this afternoon to precipitate a debate on the subject of the mandate over the island of Yap and the American position on the mandate question, but Mr. Lloyd George, the prime minister, headed off the effort with the statement that this subject was under friendly discussion between the United States and the Allied Powers.

"I am perfectly certain that the last thing the people of this country desire is any misunderstanding with the people of the United States, and anything which will conduce to or provoke a discussion which might lead to that misunderstanding would be deprecated by everyone."

element has never had any desire not to give information to parliament. We recognise fully that, as the only shareholders, the country is entitled to know about the business. But there are certain things which should not be disclosed to the C. P. R., although they might be disclosed confidentially to the committee. The Lord knows we have enough to do in competition with the C. P. R. without giving them information of that kind."

The committee adjourned till Wednesday, when Mr. Hanna will make a statement on the Government railways.

The House this afternoon gave unanimous consent to a motion of Hon. S. C. Newburn that the special committee on Canadian National Railways and Shipping be allowed to sit while the House was in session, and to print daily evidence taken by the committee. Mr. Mewburn presented the committee's first report.

## Board of Trade In Favor Raising Bridge

Passed Resolution Unanimously to That Effect at Its Meeting Yesterday.

The council of the Board of Trade at its meeting held yesterday morning passed a resolution which will be sent to Hon. F. B. McCurdy, minister of public works; Hon. F. B. Charvat, chairman of the board of railway commissioners; Hon. R. W. Wignace, and S. R. Babin, the city representatives in parliament; the Mayor, Commercial Club and the C. P. R. was passed as follows:

"Resolved, While not assuming to pronounce upon engineering problems about which there seems to be a difference of opinion among engineers themselves, the council of the St. John Board of Trade is emphatically of the opinion that in order to safeguard the commercial interests of the city of St. John, and the rights of the province of New Brunswick, in its navigable waters, plans for the erection of a new railway bridge over the Falls at the mouth of the River St. John, should be required to conform to the conditions, namely, that there shall be no greater obstacle to navigation than is caused by the present highway bridge, and that provision shall be made for separation of the grades of the railway from that of the highway of Douglas avenue in its approach to the highway bridge, so as to eliminate the danger attendant upon a level crossing upon which is an important traffic artery; and

"Whereas, The council is impressed that in the opinion of eminent engineers, no engineering difficulties pre-

vent compliance with the above conditions, be it

Further resolved, That the Dominion authorities be urged to withhold their sanction for the erection of any bridge which does not comply with the above conditions."

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