

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I should have to answer that question "yes". I presume there are mails which move by other railways which might move by ours. On the other hand, our contention has always been with respect to our principal competitor, that we recognize we cannot have all the business, and we have asked for a share, on the proportionate basis based on a mileage percentage.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you that business?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I don't think we have.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: I think you will find that instructions exist in every Department that the business is to be divided fairly between the two railways. The same thing applies to the movement of troops, for instance; it was divided equally between the C.P.R. and the Canadian National, and I think it also applies to the mail service.

Mr. HEAPS: I take a different view, Mr. Chairman, from that. We recognize that the people of Canada have a large interest in the Canadian National Railway, and there should not be equal treatment. I am in favour of giving a large amount of preferential treatment to the railway which belongs to the people of Canada.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: I think the mail proportion is one-third C.P.R. and the remainder Canadian National.

The CHAIRMAN: Not with regard to the Postal service.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: I am taking the general business of the Departments here.

Mr. HEAPS: We should patronize our own railway all we can.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: This discussion arose from the question as to how the business was divided between the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific. I cannot give you that figure offhand, but I can get that information fairly approximately.

The CHAIRMAN: It is true, is it not, that you had a little less postal business last year than the year before?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: That is true.

Mr. HENRY: That was due to the Post Office Department re-arranging the services, and running them more economically.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: I got the figures a little while ago, and the division, as regards the Post Office Department, is almost exactly even; there is a little difference, but very little. I have not the figures in my head, but generally, that is the way it worked out.

Mr. HEAPS: There is a slight difference in the balance sheets, too, and if this would help to reduce the deficit—

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Certainly, we would be in favour of getting all the business if we could.

Mr. POWER: It is a question of whether it is good policy to ruin the C.P.R.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: At the same time, I have always held the position that we only wanted that business to which our service entitled us.

Mr. HEAPS: That could be stretched a long way.

The CHAIRMAN: I am inclined to agree with Mr. Heaps. It seems to me the government ought to patronize its own line. If I have a car of my own, I would not go and hire another one to take me some place.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Then you would give government business to the C.P.R. only in the sections of the country served solely by that line?

The CHAIRMAN: Not necessarily, but wherever the public would get the best service. I would make service the prime consideration. If the C. P. R. can

[Sir Henry Thornton.]