

men were employed by the Montreal harbour commission, the following statement is made on page 10 of the report:

Similar complaints were made with regard to the meagre employment of veterans on jobs outside the control of the civil service commission on canals, especially in the vicinity of Montreal. This also might well be inquired into by the Department of Railways and Canals.

This statement is absolutely undeserving. I asked my chief engineer, who by the way is a returned man, to give me a statement of the number of returned men employed by the department on the canals. He gave me the following figures in connection with the Lachine and Welland ship canals, which make up about 60 per cent of the canals of Canada. Out of a total number of 439 employed on the Lachine canal, 184 or 42 per cent are returned men. Out of a total of 510 employed on the Welland ship canal, 330 or 65 per cent are returned men. Out of a total of 949 employed on the two canals, 514 or 54 per cent are returned men. I make this statement as I think it is most unfair that any committee or commission should listen to only one side when making an investigation and make a report without calling upon the other side to give an explanation. This commission did not do this and they made a report by implication condemning the department. I hope this correction will receive the same publicity as the statement which was made in the report and I trust the rest of the report is more dependable than this particular statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Is the minister referring to the Hyndman report which was tabled yesterday?

Mr. MANION: Yes.

GRADE CROSSINGS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Some time ago a question was asked by the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Elliott) in connection with grade crossings which had been eliminated under the provisions of the public works acts. I am informed by the board of railway commissioners that of the crossings protected since the fund came into existence, 30 per cent were rural and 70 per cent were urban crossings. I have not been able to get the information for the last two years.

Hon. J. C. ELLIOTT (West Middlesex): Could the minister advise when we might

expect the information in connection with the crossings protected during the last two years?

Mr. MANION: The board of railway commissioners have been working on this matter and I shall get this information as soon as possible.

DOMINION NOTES ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I should like to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) if a date has been set for the repeal of the Dominion Notes Act?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman knows that he should give notice of a question like that as obviously I could not carry matters of that sort in my head. This matter concerns the Department of Finance and I shall make an inquiry, in the meantime treating this question as a notice.

HYNDMAN COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I inquired yesterday of the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Sutherland) with respect to the report of the Hyndman commission which was tabled yesterday afternoon. At that time the minister stated that he would probably disclose today what disposition the government intended to make of this report.

Hon. D. M. SUTHERLAND (Minister of Pensions and National Health): This matter will have to be thought over very carefully. Members of the government have not had an opportunity to go into this report very thoroughly and will not have until the report is printed. So far there have been only a very limited number of copies available.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

BRANCH LINE BETWEEN ST. WALBURG AND LOON LAKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): I have a question to ask the Minister of Railways, and as a preliminary basis for that question I should like to read the following telegram, dated Loon Lake, via Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, May 31, 1935: C. R. McIntosh, M.P., Parliament Bldg., Ottawa.

Settlers over entire area again request a favourable reply to their petition asking for completion of grade and steel from St.