

the charter giving the company power to build branch lines?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON said: With the leave of the House, I beg to withdraw this notice, as the information is contained in the annual report of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which has been issued since I placed the notice on the paper.

The motion was dropped.

RAILWAY RATES ON PURE BRED STOCK.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON rose to—

Call the attention of the government to the announcement recently made by the Grand Trunk Railway that the railway companies had decided to charge only one-half fares hereafter on pure bred stock, and inquire if a similar concession will be given on government railways.

He said: I daresay it is known to hon. gentlemen that a very strong complaint has been made, in the interests of the farmers of the Dominion of Canada, with regard to the rate charged by the different railways, government as well as company railroads, on farm stock, more especially on pure bred stock for breeding purposes. Speaking for the farmers of my own section of the Dominion, it is found that an economical manner of improving the blood of live stock in many lines is to buy from the advanced farmers and importers in the province of Ontario; but it is found that the rates charged by the railways for the carrying of single animals is almost prohibitive. It makes the expense very great indeed. Where a party imports by the car load, the rates are still very high; but when that is done, they are not so oppressive as they are when the ordinary farmer has to buy a single animal of any of the different lines of stock for the purpose of improving his herd. This has been a subject of complaint, and the Dominion Breeder's Association has taken up the matter, and the Breeders' Association of the Maritime Provinces also has the matter under consideration. It affects them not only in the matter of the improvement of herds, but also in exhibiting at the various exhibitions. The rates have been so high that competition at exhibitions is confined almost to the farmers in the immediate locality where the exhibition is held, whereas if more reasonable rates of freight were charged the competition would become more general and

opportunities would thus be given farmers living at distances from the great centres to compete, to purchase stock there, it may be, and to improve their herds by bringing stock home, or to selling what they had to dispose of. I notice by an item in one of the Ottawa papers that this matter has been represented to the railway companies, that a deputation consisting of the Hon. John, Dryden, J. I. L. Hobson and J. W. Hodgson, representing the Agricultural Department of the Government of Ontario, and the Dominion Breeders' Association have interviewed the Grand Trunk Railway, and as a result of that interview the company has announced that a concession of one-half is to be made on the rates charged for the shipment of pure bred stock on the railways owned by the railway companies. I presume from that statement that it includes the Canadian Pacific Railway as well as the Grand Trunk Railway and the other railway companies of Canada, but there is no statement here as to whether the government railways, the Prince Edward Island Railway and the Intercolonial, have agreed to this concession, and my object in bringing that matter before this hon. House is to ask my hon. friend the leader of the House whether the government railways have made the same concession, or are prepared to make the same concession as has been made by the Grand Trunk Railway and which appears to be made by the other different railway companies.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The notice of the hon. senator appeared for the first time this morning and the leader of the House had not observed it. I noted it about an hour ago and spoke to the Minister of Railways on the subject. His attention however had not been called to it, but he said he would be very glad to give the matter some consideration. I may state that the rates on the Intercolonial Railway and also on the Prince Edward Island Railway are considerably below the rates on the Grand Trunk Railway.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I think not on this class of freight.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—So I am advised. However, it is not a matter I am prepared to discuss now. Mr. Blair said he would take the matter into consideration and let me