

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 231.

THURSDAY, June 18, 1931.

The Select Standing Committee on Railways and Shipping met at 11 o'clock a.m. Hon. J. D. Chaplin, Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have been delayed for a few minutes hoping that the Minister might come in, but we will proceed and clean up page 11 on the analysis.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I think first, Mr. Chairman, I had better give the answers to the questions that were asked yesterday.

Col. Cantley asked were all the steel rails, ordered and delivered in 1930, put in the track. The answer is:

Gross Tons Purchased.	145,243
Gross Tons Laid in Main Lines.	117,691
Carried in Stock, Dec. 31, 1930.	27,552

Mr. Hanson asked, how many stations did the Canadian National close during the year 1930. There were eight stations closed, as follows:—

- Powel, Man, May 5, 1930.
- Henrysburg, Que., April 2, 1930.
- Noyan Junction, Que., Feb. 15, 1930.
- Maitland, Ont., March 21, 1930.
- Carlsbad Springs, Ont., March 11, 1930.
- Stackpool, Ont., Nov. 5, 1930.
- Seagrave, Ont., June 20, 1930.
- Iberville Junction, Que., Dec. 3, 1930.

And the date is given of the closing of the stations.

Mr. CANTLEY: I thought that his enquiry referred not only to 1930 but also up until the present time, 1931.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Well, that is the way we understood the question.

Mr. CANTLEY: That is my understanding of it.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: We were dealing with 1930 figures, and I assumed the question related to that.

Mr. CANTLEY: Well, that was my understanding of it.

The CHAIRMAN: Just enlarge the question so that the information is brought up to the present time.

Mr. CANTLEY: There were more stations closed in 1931 than there were in 1930.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: They were all closed by the action of the Board of Railway Commissioners. However, that will be answered to-morrow, Col. Cantley. I cannot tell you just offhand.

Mr. Fraser asked the comparative price of ties in British Columbia for delivery in 1930 and 1931. I will give that information if the committee wishes it, and Mr. Fraser wishes it.

The CHAIRMAN: There is just one thing that I want to call the committee's attention to, that the rule laid down by the committees in the past has been this, that present contracts have not any right to be enquired into. It