

chairman; the other members are Mr. Boyce, Mr. Nantel and Mr. Rutherford. I think there is one vacancy.

Mr. CANNON: This commission is in no way under the jurisdiction of the minister, is it?

Hon. Mr. REID: No. There is a right of appeal to the Governor in Council from any decision of the commission; that is all the jurisdiction the Government has over its actions.

Mr. CANNON: I should like to draw the attention of the minister to the rather extraordinary situation which arises from the fact that the chairman of the Railway Commission in his travels throughout the country speaks officially in his capacity as chairman. If I am not mistaken, a few weeks ago he was out West and there made some rather strenuous statements—according to his habit of speaking which always was strenuous. As a matter of fact, he got into rather sharp conflict with the Minister of Labour. When such a situation arises, has the minister control over the chairman, or does that gentleman represent simply his own personal views?

Hon. Mr. REID: As I understand, he was speaking for himself. He certainly did not speak for my department.

Mr. PARENT: What railways come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners?

Hon. Mr. REID: All railways that have been declared for the general advantage of Canada.

Mr. PARENT: I mean the Canadian Government railways.

Hon. Mr. REID: There is the Canadian Northern Railway system and its subsidiaries; also the Grand Trunk, if we take it over—

Mr. McMASTER: The Grand Trunk is under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission, anyway.

Hon. Mr. REID: Yes, that is what I say. The Intercolonial and the Transcontinental will not legally come under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission until the Canadian National Railways Act has been brought into force. Pending that, the Railway Department notified the Board of Railway Commissioners to treat those railways as if they actually were under their jurisdiction. In other words, if any person had any complaint against those lines he could make it to the Board of

Railway Commissioners, and the decision of the board would be confirmed by the Minister of Railways and Canals.

Mr. PARENT: Is that done by Order in Council?

Hon. Mr. REID: No, the minister has power in cases of that kind. Let me give the hon. member a case to explain what I mean. Suppose an application came in for a farm crossing, we would ask the Board of Railway Commissioners to deal with it, and we would confirm their decision; or if the application was made direct to the Board of Railway Commissioners, they would notify the management of the Canadian National railways of their decision, and the latter would carry it out as though the Canadian National railways were actually under the jurisdiction of the board.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Would my hon. friend take this occasion to explain the divergence of opinion between him and one of his former employees—I refer to Mr. Payne—regarding the railway deficit this year?

Hon. Mr. REID: When we started on these items it was understood that we would deal with each item separately, and the item under consideration relates simply to the Board of Railway Commissioners. I think we had better adhere to that understanding.

Mr. PARENT: When the Board of Railway Commissioners were sitting at the city of Quebec three or four months ago I presented a petition signed by the people of a certain parish in my constituency, to the effect that if the commission placed an agent at a certain station the Government railways would be better off to the extent of \$15,000 a year. The line in question in that particular case was the Transcontinental railway. Mr. Carvell stated that the commission had no jurisdiction, and I was inclined to agree with this view. Now I am at a loss to find out which is really correct, the chief commissioner or the minister.

Hon. Mr. REID: If I remember rightly, I wrote a letter to the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners when Sir Henry Drayton was chairman and gave him those instructions, and it was some time after Mr. Carvell was appointed chairman that some one did have trouble such as the hon. member has mentioned and drew my attention to it. I took it up with Mr. Carvell and he said he had never heard of the instructions that I had given. I then