

no claim, but if injured through no fault of their own we take care of them, pay their hospital fees and make them some allowance. We do that voluntarily and we always take care of our injured men.

Mr. CASEY—You do not make any stated contribution to their benevolent fund?

Mr. TAIT—No, sir, we do not, nor do we call upon them to make any stated contribution to a benevolent fund either.

Mr. CASEY—In the case of the Grand Trunk fund is the contribution compulsory by the men? Is it kept out of their wages, or may they contribute or not as they please?

Mr. WAINWRIGHT—It is taken from them out of their wages. You will understand that our fund covers not only injury, but sickness as well.

Mr. TAIT—In remote districts where population is sparse and doctors would not remain unless they were guaranteed some fixed compensation we employ doctors and pay them a certain salary. Our men pay 50 cents a month to that fund and they get the doctors' services and drugs for themselves and their families except in midwifery cases.

Is it proposed, if this compensation clause is enacted, to relieve the railway companies under the common law?

Mr. WAINWRIGHT—In our cases we do not find that any payment that we have made is taken into consideration in a court at all.

Mr. CASEY—It does not relieve a company of their common law obligations.

The Select Committee of the House on Bill No. 2, further to secure the safety of railway employees and passengers, and Bill No. 3, to promote the safety of railway employees, met on Wednesday, May 5th, 1897.

Mr. A. HUDSON called.

Mr. CASEY—What is your position?

Mr. HUDSON—I am chairman of the Dominion Legislative Board of Railway Employees.

Mr. CASEY—How is that Legislative Board composed?

Mr. HUDSON—This Legislative Board is composed of representatives of the different railway organizations—the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, the Order of Railway Conductors, the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, the Order of Railway Telegraphers, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trackmen. These bills as you are aware came before the Committee or were introduced in the House two or three years ago. Mr. Casey spoke to me in connection with them and I gave my ideas at the time, not having any power from the Dominion Legislative Board which was not formed at that time. The organization of the Dominion Legislative Board of Railway Employees was caused by a bill introduced by Sir John Thompson. Since then the Board has been organized and all the different railway organizations belong to it. I am its chairman and Mr. Low its secretary. At our meeting last year when the Dominion Legislative Board met the Government, these bills were taken up and amended. All we ask is what we consider right and just in the interest of the railway employees of Canada. We do not consider that the bills of Mr. Casey and Mr. Maclean are anything more than what is just and right in the interest not only of the railway employees but of the public, and also in the interest of the railway companies if they look at it in the right light. There is nothing that we wish to do or have said to induce the railway companies to do what is impossible or something that has not already been done in the United States and in other countries. For that reason we took these bills and struck out of them what we considered obnoxious clauses—clauses that we would have liked to have had retained but which we did not consider altogether just to the railway companies. Our committee appeared before Mr. Laurier and the members of the Government, and, as the Premier said, we were not asking for anything but what was fair and just and right. I will say that it is the wish of the railway employees as a whole in Canada, and the organized railway employees, that these bills should be passed as they stand. They do not contain anything but what they consider just and right and they think they should be passed as they stand. I refer to Mr. Maclean's, Mr. Casey's, Mr. Gibson's and the Alien Labour bills. I have been requested to come here and represent