

*Private Bills*

I must say, Mr. Chairman, that on three different occasions, the Conservative candidates in my constituency had promised to obtain that the trans-Canada highway would go through our area. Naturally, since it now crosses our area, I would wish the Minister of Public Works, who habitually has a straightforward approach to everything, to consider the possibility not only of contributing to the completion of the present highway but also of building the 52-mile section between Norembega and La Reine, which would then connect Montreal with Cochrane. I stop there, because I have now come to the boundary of the province of Quebec. Not only would such a highway be used by transport trucks, but it would be vitally important from a national defence standpoint. In fact, in 1941 and 1942, the 153-mile section between Hearst and Geraldton was built by the provincial government especially for defence purposes.

Therefore I think the advisability of building that section between La Reine and Cochrane, might be considered jointly with the Department of National Defence. This would provide a direct highway between Quebec and the western provinces without going through Ottawa and North Bay.

I leave the matter with the minister. I hope he will be able to announce, when his department's estimates come up for approval, that a way has been found to contribute to the construction of that highway.

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Chairman, I believe it is now five o'clock.

(Text):

Progress reported.

**PRIVATE BILLS****BOILER INSPECTION AND INSURANCE  
COMPANY OF CANADA**

**Mr. M. D. Morton (Davenport)** moved the second reading of Bill No. S-8, respecting the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the prime purpose of this bill is to extend the powers of the company. But when extending these powers it was thought advisable when before the parliament of Canada to include amendments for other purposes.

The first purpose is to extend the power of the company to transact all usual classes of insurance except that of life insurance.

The second is to increase the authorized capital of the company from \$500,000, with

power to increase up to \$1 million; to \$1 million, with power to increase such capital up to \$2 million.

The third is to reduce the par value of the shares from \$100 to \$10.

The fourth is to change the requirement whereby the notice of the annual meeting must appear continuously for 15 days in a daily newspaper to provide that the 15 days' notice be inserted only once in at least two newspapers within the district in keeping with the provisions of the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act.

The fifth is to remove the limitations of dividends presently limited to 20 per cent of the capital in any one year.

I understand that this company is one of the oldest companies in Canada that specializes in boiler insurance. The company was incorporated in 1875 under the name Canadian Steam Users Insurance Association. Its powers were amended and extended in 1889 and in 1892. It is now considered desirable to further extend the powers to cover, as I said, all classes of insurance except life insurance.

The paid up capital of the company amounts to \$300,000. The company now seeks to increase the capital because of anticipated future requirements. This is also necessary because subsections (2) and (3) of section 1 of the act require that the company have additional paid up capital in order to qualify for these additional powers. The present authorized capital of the company is \$500,000 and the company at present has power to increase its capital up to \$1 million. It now seeks to have its authorized paid up capital increased to \$1 million with power to increase up to \$2 million.

The book value of the existing shares of the capital stock of the company with a par value of \$100 is in excess of \$800 for each share. With the continued growth of the company and the resulting increase in the book value of the shares it is considered necessary to change the par value of the shares of the company by reducing it from \$100 to \$10. It has been suggested that this is to make the stock more marketable but I feel it is only fair to say that at the present time the company has no intention of putting the stock on the market. The company would not request this power were it not for the fact that it is here seeking the other primary amendments increasing its powers.

The request for authority to change the form of notice will represent a saving to the company and will serve to bring the practice in line with that followed under the provisions of the Canadian and British Insurance