

Government Property Traffic Act

We think there is a possibility, although it seems perhaps a remote one, that we should take care of by inserting the words, "or occupied by", after the words "belonging to", to cover those lands which perhaps Her Majesty will hold under lease or otherwise. I would therefore suggest that my colleague the Minister of Fisheries move an amendment to that effect. I may say that we will also be amending clause 4 of the bill by consequential amendments of the same character.

Mr. Mayhew: I move:

That clause 2 be amended by inserting the words "or occupied by" after the words "belonging to" in line 7 on page 1.

Mr. Drew: There is one point that arises in connection with this that perhaps may not be so clearly under this bill as under some other provision, but I think it should be raised at this time. As I understand this bill it would, if enacted, give the government the proper authority over the highways and other properties which would be under the jurisdiction of the federal district commission. Is that correct?

Mr. Garson: Subject to the control which they have. This bill is a general one and the first part reads:

The governor in council may make regulations for the control of traffic upon any lands belonging to Her Majesty in right of Canada,—

And after this amendment comes into effect it will read, "or occupied by Her Majesty."

—and in particular, but without restricting the generality of the foregoing, may make regulations.

Then, those regulation-making powers are specified. I wish to point out to the hon. member in relation to the point he has just raised that this is an empowering bill, and any regulations which are passed by the governor in council under it will be co-ordinated with any existing regulations which there may be under the authority of the Federal District Commission Act.

Mr. Drew: I can think of a number of cases that might arise under this, but at the moment I do not intend to amplify them. I do wish to speak of one problem, of which the Prime Minister would have an appreciation, and I do so not because I happen to use these bridges frequently myself, but I would point out that on the road that leads to Government House and to other official buildings, where of necessity many people visiting Ottawa on official business must pass back and forth, there are two of the most dangerous bridges of which I know anywhere in Canada. I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that nowhere in any city have I seen two such dangerous bridges as those

between here and Government House which, of necessity, must be frequently visited by those coming here on official business, to say nothing of those who have occasion to use the road for other purposes. I would suggest that, until the bridges can be changed, the federal district commission and the other authorities concerned may find it possible to work out better traffic regulations, and that should be approached as soon as possible.

As the minister knows, people have been killed there under circumstances which may have involved none of the ordinary negligence which often arises on occasions of that kind. In darkness, when it is raining or if it is foggy, even the most careful driver might easily have a fatal accident on one of these bridges. Cars carrying important visitors to this country on official business find themselves approaching the bridge without any real evidence of the fact that one half of it is for vehicular traffic and the other half for street-cars. I need say no more than that in dealing with the matter at this moment. I simply seize the opportunity to suggest to the minister that in some way, through the various agencies that have something to do with this subject, steps be taken to insist upon some effective traffic regulations at that point until such time as those bridges can be replaced. Most certainly those bridges should be replaced at the earliest possible moment not only in the interests of safety but in the interests of appearance of that particular part of Ottawa.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

Section 3 agreed to.

On section 4—*Evidence.*

Mr. Garson: To clause 4 there will be amendments consequential upon that which has already been passed by the committee. The amendment will be as follows:

That clause 4 be amended

1. By inserting the words "or occupant" after the word "owner" in line 13 on page 2;
2. By inserting the words "or are occupied by" after the words "belong to" in line 25 on page 2; and
3. By inserting the words "as the case may be" after the word "Canada" in line 26 on page 2.

I will ask my colleague the Minister of Fisheries to make that motion.

Mr. Mayhew: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Shall this amendment carry?

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, the only purpose of this consequential amendment, like the purpose of the amendment to clause 2, is to provide for any circumstances that may