

*Railway Act*

Then I read another letter indicating the discontent of the Nelson chamber of commerce. It is addressed to Mr. N. R. Crump, president, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal, Quebec, and reads as follows:

Dear Sir:

The people of Nelson and district are far from satisfied with the passenger service of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The Nelson chamber of commerce are continually receiving complaints about the inadequate train service of twice weekly and the lack of service on this run.

At our executive meeting held recently it was unanimously agreed that this chamber submit to you a request for resumption of daily service from Nelson to Vancouver and that something be done to provide for serving meals and also some sleeping accommodation.

We would very much appreciate an early reply regarding this matter.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) E. Christiansen,  
Secretary.

Then in addition to chambers of commerce the trade unions unitedly have opposed this reduction of service, as have farmers' institutes, hospitals and other organizations. I have received letters from a large number of people who are greatly concerned about this situation. To indicate the attitude of the hospitals I will quote one paragraph from a letter I received from Mr. E. M. Stiles, chairman of the board of Kootenay lake general hospital in Nelson. It is addressed to the Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada, Ottawa, Ontario and reads in part as follows:

Gentlemen:

At the last meeting of the board of directors of the Kootenay lake general hospital, the matter of the passenger train service here was of concern to members, and a resolution was unanimously passed protesting the inadequacy of the present train service, and asking that the board of transport commissioners be notified of this protest, and informed that the lack of service is an obstacle in the way of good patient care.

That same protest is supported by all the hospitals in the district, which find it extremely difficult during winter conditions to deal with patients who require transport to the coast and things of that sort. When the minister was in my district during the election and, I think it is safe to say, was doing his best to terminate my public life, he was met by a large delegation of businessmen in Nelson including representatives of the chambers of commerce, and also a representative delegation of trade unionists, and a brief was presented to the minister expressing the point of view of the persons who were making these representations. Although it

[Mr. Herridge.]

is a lengthy brief, Mr. Speaker, I think I cannot do better than put this brief on the record because it very well covers the whole situation.

I might say that this brief is the work of two or three members of the international union of mine, mill and smelter workers in Trail who took the time really to probe into the question and to compile or assemble these facts for presentation to the minister. It was generally recognized throughout the district, after its publication in the local press, as being the best of the representations that were made on the question. These men who had drawn up this brief as the result of a considerable amount of work received congratulations from people all over the district. When people approach a problem in a constructive way and do not just sit back and howl but do something to present a case; when they use their time and their ability to present a certain situation to the minister, as these representatives did for the district as a whole, I think their efforts should be commended.

While the brief is long I am going to put it on the record, because I think in that way I can best bring to the attention of the house and the minister and the many other people who read *Hansard*—and there are a great many people who read *Hansard* in my district—what has been done, and in that way they will have a permanent record of the efforts of these people and of the situation complained of at the present time. These representations were made to the minister, as I said before, during his brief visit to my district when he was personally concerned about my return to this house. Anyway, this is the brief.

The paper I am reading from is the *Trail Daily Times*, which is a Conservative paper interested in this question as are all the other papers in the district, and is owned by a very close relative of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Green). It states as follows:

Local 480 Presents Brief to Hees

Local 480 of the international union of mine, mill and smelter workers today presented a brief to transport minister George Hees at Nelson calling for the resumption of daily service on the Kettle valley line between Penticton and Nelson.

The brief, presented by local 480 president Al King of Trail, also protested the Canadian Pacific Railway Company being given any further franchises, such as air franchises, ". . . when they apparently wished to curtail services to the public in areas where they hold an exclusive railway franchise, as they do in the Kootenays."

The text of the brief follows:

"Trail and district smelter workers union, local 480, of the autonomous mine mill and smelter workers union in Canada welcomes this opportunity of placing before you in your capacity as Minister of Transport some of the grievous problems that have been and are afflicting this general area of