

## RAILWAY RATES.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Antigonish and Guysborough):

How much were railway rates advanced since 1915 on the roads: (a) east of Port Arthur; (b) west of Port Arthur?

Hon. Mr. REID: (a) By its General Order No. 167, dated July 3, 1916, the board permitted a more or less general increase in freight rates in Eastern Canada. This increase affected the so-called special freight tariffs referred to in section 328 of the Railway Act, 1907; that is to say, the special (not the standard maximum) tariffs applicable to freight carried under the Canadian Freight Classification, and the so-called commodity rates. The increases granted varied according to districts and nature of commodities, but the general effect was an approximate increase of 5 per cent on the traffic as a whole. (b) By its General Order No. 212, dated January 15, 1918, which, after postponement, was confirmed by Order in Council P.C. 1862, dated March 14, 1918, a general increase in freight rates in both Eastern and Western Canada was approved, and was expected to approximate 15 per cent. At the same time approval was given to an increase in the standard maximum passenger fare east of the Rock Mountains from 3 cents to 3.45 a mile.

Because of the statutory limitations the freight rate increase in the West averaged 10 per cent, while in the East it averaged 15 per cent.

By Order in Council P.C. 1863, dated July 27, 1918, freight rates throughout Canada were mandatorily increased in variable amounts approximating in general 25 per cent, but working out in practice an average of about 20 per cent.

## ST. JOHN AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.

Mr. CALDWELL:

1. Who are the shareholders of the St. John and Quebec Railway?
2. Who are the directors and president of the said railway?
3. Who has authority to sign contracts or agreements on behalf of this railway company?
4. What is the date of the agreement between the St. John and Quebec Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as to the securing of running rights by the said St. John and Quebec railway from Westfield Beach to St. John, N.B.?
5. What is the value of the proportion of that section of the Canadian Pacific railway between Westfield Beach and St. John, N.B., which the St. John and Quebec Railway Company has agreed to pay the interest on, in return for running rights over the above-mentioned section of the Canadian Pacific railway, and what is the rate of interest to be paid on same?

[Mr. Doherty.]

6. What proportion of all working expenses is the said St. John and Quebec Railway Company to pay the said Canadian Pacific Railway in the above agreement?

7. What will this payment of interest by the said St. John and Quebec Railway Company amount to yearly, and what will their proportion of all working expenses covered by the said agreement amount to yearly?

8. What do the gross earnings of the St. John and Quebec railway amount to monthly and yearly?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: This does not seem to be a question with which the Dominion Government has anything to do, and we have no records in connection with the matter.

## THE PROPRIETARY OR PATENT MEDICINE ACT.

Mr. LESAGE:

Is it the intention of the Government to amend subsection 3 of section 5 of the Act to amend the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act sanctioned on the 7th day of July, 1919, so as to provide for the disposal of a stock of any proprietary or patent medicine which may remain in the hands of a retailer when the manufacturer from whom he has purchased the said medicine neglects or fails to secure a renewal of his license?

Hon. Mr. ROWELL: An announcement will be made in due course.

## PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

\*Mr. CASGRAIN:

1. How many parliamentary secretaries are there at present?
2. What are their names?
3. What salaries do they receive?
4. What duties do they perform?
5. Is it the intention of the Government to continue such offices for a considerable length of time?
6. If so, why?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER:

1. Two.
2. Mr. Hugh Clark, M.P., and Mr. F. H. Keefer, M.P.
3. \$5,000 per annum.
4. Assistants to their respective ministers in their departments.
- 5 and 6. These questions will receive their answer in the House later, depending upon the action of the Government.

MR. J. W. MARGESON.

Mr. DUFF:

1. Is Mr. J. W. Margeson a member of the Board of Pension Commissioners?
2. Is the Government aware that he holds a position in the Ottawa Branch of the G.W.V.A.?
3. Is the Government aware that he took a prominent part in the recent G.W.V.A. convention held in Montreal?
4. Is it true that the said Mr. J. W. Margeson stated that should a small amount of gratuity be asked for it would quite likely be granted to the soldiers?