

The question now arises, what would be the fair thing to do in setting up the capital of the Canadian National Railways. My right honourable friend says, "Yes, I admit it should be overhauled, and some things should disappear." I do not intend to enter into details of what debts should be struck out. I have suggested that we refer the Bill to committee and then discuss the situation so that we may determine what is the fair thing to do. We may not go the whole length of the Bill. It would be for the Minister and his accountants to justify before the committee the conclusions to which they have come. As my right honourable friend has said, there is not a cent to be gained by the country. I repeat, we have to consider what is the fair thing to do by the system, which, after all, is the property of the people of Canada.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I move that this Bill be sent to the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours. It is a railway Bill, though its aspect is financial.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the Committee on Banking and Commerce would be more appropriate, but one committee is just as good as the other in its personnel.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I should like to have the opinion of honourable senators.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Surely the Bill should go to the Railway Committee.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: All right; we will say the Railway Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

FISHERIES RESEARCH BOARD BILL SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 77, an Act to repeal the Biological Board Act and to create The Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

He said: The Biological Board of Canada was established originally by Order in Council in 1898. It consisted of the then Commissioner of Fisheries, the late Professor Prince, and certain professors of universities then doing biological research work. Its first laboratory was a floating one. It was designed to be towed around the coast from place to place where work was being carried on. For many years the board confined its work to

investigations of the fauna and flora of the sea, or, in other words, to marine animal and vegetable life.

In the course of time the board's work was extended to both coasts and two important permanent stations were established, one at St. Andrews, N.B., and the other at Departure Bay, near Nanaimo, B.C.

In 1912 it was decided to establish the board by legislation and the Biological Board Bill was enacted. As time went on the board, at the instance of the department, undertook more and more investigational work not only into the natural history of fish, but also into problems arising in the preparation of fish for market.

By 1923 the board, the industry and the department were working so closely together that it was decided to amend section 4 of the Act so as to provide that the board should consist of seven members appointed by the Minister, in addition to the scientific members from the universities. After this amendment two representatives from the department and two from the industry, one from each coast, were appointed to the board, and it has since been so constituted that it represents the Administration, the industry and science.

The work of the board has been continually expanding. In addition to the scientific stations at St. Andrews and Departure Bay, there is now on each coast—at Halifax and Prince Rupert—what is known as a fisheries experimental station. These stations are designed to do for the industry all that an experimental farm can do for agriculture. They deal with problems experienced by the industry in preparing fish for market, and carry on investigations looking to the development of better methods of processing fish. They also conduct courses of instruction not only for our fishery officers, but as well for representatives of the industry.

More recently other sub-stations have been established, one at Bideford, P.E.I., for oyster development work, and another on the Gaspé coast to meet the requirements of the French-speaking portion of the fishing industry.

This is the present membership of the board: Professor A. T. Cameron, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Chairman; J. J. Cowie, Ottawa, Secretary-Treasurer; John Dybhavn, Prince Rupert, B.C.; Professor R. J. Bean, Halifax, N.S.; Professor A. H. Hutchinson, Vancouver, B.C.; Professor J. Playfair McMurrich, Toronto, Ont.; Professor W. T. MacClement, Kingston, Ont.; Professor H. G. Perry, Wolfville, N.S.; J. A. Rodd, Ottawa, Ont.; Professor W. P. Thompson, Saskatoon, Sask.; Professor D. L. Thomson, Montreal, Que.; A. Handfield Whitman, Halifax, N.S., and Professor Alexandre Vachon, Quebec City.