

at hand, I assume for my part that this report as to what Mr. Norris said is substantially correct. I ask the Government, assuming it is correct: had Mr. Norris any foundation for the statement? Had he authority to announce a decision of the Railway Commission in regard to the most important question which has come before it since its inception? If so, does the Government believe in the practice of the Railway Commission of announcing its judgments through Liberal politicians?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I confess I cannot see much point in my hon. friend's question, unless it be the implication, in the concluding portion of it, of a political significance in the press report which, probably, could not reasonably be attached to it. I am unable to say whether or not the report which appeared in the press of what Mr. Norris said is correct; Mr. Norris will have to speak for himself on that matter. There has been no official communication between the Government and Mr. Norris on the subject of railway rates.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not the question. Is it correct, as Mr. Norris is reported to have said, that the Railway Commission has come to a decision? If so, is the decision as Mr. Norris says it is?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall have to ask the Railway Commission before I can answer my hon. friend.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Exactly so. Does the Prime Minister wish to have us understand that, in respect to a subject regarding which the Minister of Railways has a motion on the Order Paper, for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the matter of railway rates, a decision has already been, or may have been, made known to the Prime Minister of Manitoba, although wholly unknown to the Prime Minister of Canada?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Certainly not. No announcement as to the policy of the Government in this matter will be made until the House has had full opportunity of discussing the resolution of the Minister of Railways and of considering the matter in committee.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not the question.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am entitled to an answer.

[Mr. Meighen.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: No provincial campaign can be carried on here.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is the Prime Minister or the Government aware of any decision whatever by the Railway Commission on this question?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Is this an electoral campaign?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There has been no decision whatever.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have another question, as to which there will be no difficulty at all in the Prime Minister answering "yes" or "no." Mr. Norris, having referred to the suspension in 1918, confirmed by statute in 1919, of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, and having made reference to section 325 confirming that suspension, is further reported:

While in Ottawa he and Hon. T. H. Johnston, Attorney General, have been successful, said the Premier, in securing the consent of the King Government to letting this clause lapse, and, consequently, rates would revert automatically to the 1919 level.

Is that correct or is it not?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The consent of the Government has not been obtained to anything appertaining to railway rates.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then if Mr. Norris said this it is wholly erroneous.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. FIELDING: Ask Mr. Norris.

SUPPLY

The House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Indians—Nova Scotia, \$50,140.

Item agreed to.

Mr. CARROLL: I was not here when the item was agreed to and I should like to say a few words on this subject, as it is important.

The CHAIRMAN: The item has been carried.

Mr. CARROLL: Then perhaps I shall have another opportunity to speak on the question.

Mr. CALDWELL: I move that the committee return to the item. It is hardly fair to pass it without giving the members from Nova Scotia an opportunity to discuss it.

Motion agreed to.