

*Imperial Cable Merger*

done and why. Might we not, without delaying the legislation, add as an annex to it such further documents as would enable the causes operating in the mind of this parliament in arriving at the conclusion it did to be stated in the legislation itself?

While I am on my feet, I must say that I think the inquiry made by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) as to who Mr. Brown is is an entirely pertinent one.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Suppose my hon. friend the Postmaster General moves that the two documents should be annexed to the bill. We could do that now.

Mr. VENIOT: I move accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BENNETT: Probably one should be schedule "A" and the other schedule "B", because one is a report and the other is a statute. The imperial act should probably be schedule "A" and the report schedule "B".

Mr. LAPOINTE: There is no objection to that.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT: I would not want to be factious or captious, but I think when the hon. member for North Winnipeg asked who Mr. Brown was, in view of the correspondence and what it indicates, he was not going beyond his rights. It seems to me that when any member of parliament in connection with legislation of this kind finds correspondence indicating that a gentleman by a certain name has undertaken to play a very considerable part in connection with certain financial transactions, the minister in charge of the bill should be in a position to indicate who the gentleman is and why he comes into the transaction. Surely the department must have known who Mr. Brown was, or else Mr. Brown would not have left the secret code. It does occur to me that a member of parliament, if he were making a just and proper inquiry in order that he might be informed in relation to the matter, might properly expect the minister in charge to indicate who Mr. Brown was.

Mr. LAPOINTE: He got his answer, unless we are to produce Mr. Brown as schedule "C".

Mr. BENNETT: That is not quite good enough.

Mr. NEILL: The Canadian terminus of the Pacific cable is in the district I represent, at a place called Bamfield. I would like to know if these employees of the board who entered the service somewhat as if they were

[Mr. Bennett.]

entering the government service with the prospect of continuity of service, pension, and so forth, will in the transfer have their rights as to continuity of service, salary, and pension safeguarded.

Mr. VENIOT: That is to be found in the agreement which will be signed by the contracting parties. I have a skeleton of the agreement here.

Mr. NEILL: Is the agreement to be embodied as an appendix to the bill?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No.

Mr. NEILL: How am I to find out if the interests of these employees are being safeguarded?

Mr. VENIOT: While I have not got the details at hand at the present moment, I can let my hon. friend have all those details.

Mr. NEILL: Perhaps the Postmaster General would say whether steps have been taken to look fully after their rights.

Mr. VENIOT: Yes.

Mr. GARDINER: In what manner is that provision being made? Let us have the details.

Mr. VENIOT: The agreement provides that the company shall take over the existing staff of the board subject to and in accordance with the provisions set out in the second schedule thereof.

Mr. NEILL: Could not the agreement be laid on the table?

Mr. HEAPS: Why not table the other correspondence?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The agreement is not published yet.

Mr. VENIOT: I do not think it should be tabled until all the parties have signed.

Mr. GEARY: Who are the parties to the agreement and what is it all about?

Mr. STEVENS: The chairman was just about to call section 1 carried, but if these schedules are to be added, section 1 will have to be amended by adding after the words "chapter 7" the words "as set forth in schedule A attached hereto," and by adding after the word "report" the words "schedule B." I understand that it would require one of the ministers of the crown to move this amendment.

Mr. HEAPS: I would suggest that the minister report progress so that all the information desired by the committee can be