

able extent, that the returns should be made to the board as well as to the minister.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Why?

Hon. Mr. POWER—Because the board has to deal with the railway business.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—But the minister has not to deal with the returns. The return I take it to be simply an accurate account of the business of the year as provided in the schedule, and the reason for sending them directly to the minister is that he could have them included in the departmental reports.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—They are printed at once.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The object is to lay the returns before parliament.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Besides, the board sits in Ottawa, and can very easily acquire the information.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That is not the whole story. If the hon. gentleman will look at clause 304 he will see that provision is made for weekly returns. Those do not appear in the annual report of the minister.

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—I rather agree with the Speaker that the board should be in possession of the returns. The commissioners in the United States have got such information. The board apparently, have nothing to do with this at all. I think it is a defect.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 309, subsection 5,

5. Any information furnished to the board by any such return, or any evidence taken by the board in connection therewith, shall not be open to the public, or published, but shall be for the information of the board only; and if any official or servant of the board, or any person having access to or knowledge of, any such return or evidence shall, without the authority of the board first obtained, publish or make known any information, having obtained the same, or knowing the same to have been derived, from such return or evidence, he shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars for each offence, and to imprisonment not exceeding six months in the common jail in the county where such conviction is had.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—Does this mean that if the information was asked for in the House the minister could not give it?

Hon. Mr. POWER.

Hon. Mr. KERR (Toronto)—That is quite apart from the minister. This is information for the board—quite different from the information for the minister.

Hon. Mr. FORGET—If I wanted to know what the board has heard on a certain day, does the hon. Secretary of State say that the minister could not give me the information? Is the board not responsible to parliament?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh, yes. Any information acquired by the board would be obtained just in the same way from the minister.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—There is no question that parliament is paramount and overrides anything of this kind. If parliament ordered information to be given, even though it were privileged as provided in this clause, the minister would have to bring it down. There is no law paramount to parliament.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I suppose it would be wise to suppress any false return or information.

The subclause was adopted.

On clause 310,

310. The following Acts of the parliament of Canada are hereby repealed:—

Chapter 29 of 51 Victoria;—the whole, except section 306.

Chapter 28 of 53 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 51 of 54-55 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 27 of 55-56 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 27 of 56 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 53 of 57-58 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 9 of 59 Victoria;—the whole, except section 2.

Chapter 22 of 61 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 37 of 62-63 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 23 of 63-64 Victoria;—the whole.

Chapter 31 of 1 Edward VII;—the whole.

Chapter 32 of 1 Edward VII;—the whole.

Hon. Mr. POWER—There is one point to which it is well to direct attention. This clause provides that certain Acts of the parliament of Canada be repealed. It states that chapter 29 of 51 Victoria shall be repealed—the whole except section 306. Now 306 reads as follows:—

The Intercolonial Railway, the Grand Trunk Railway, North Shore Railway, the Northern Railway, the Hamilton and North-western Railway, the Canada Southern Railway, the Great Western Railway, the Credit Valley Railway, the Ontario and Quebec Railway, and the Canadian Pacific Railway, are hereby declared to be works for the general advantage of Canada.