

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ROOM 231,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

TUESDAY, April 5, 1927.

The Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines met at 11.00 a.m., the Acting Chairman, Mr. Young (Saskatoon), presiding.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of Bill No. 78, "An Act respecting the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company."

The CHAIRMAN: The preamble reads:—

Whereas the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company has by its petition prayed that the time for the commencement and completion of its canal and works may be further extended, and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petition: Therefore His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: Mr. Chairman, before the discussion of this Bill commences, I would like to say a word. I think every member of the Committee will agree that this is of some importance, and we ought to have a record of the evidence taken. The only permission this Committee has from the House up to date, with respect to recording and printing evidence is with regard to the Peace River resolution referred to the Committee. I now move that the necessary steps be taken to secure permission from the House with regard to the printing of evidence only,—I do not mean to print the speeches pro and con, but the evidence only—as in the case of the Peace River resolution. In the meantime, arrangements can be made to take stenographic notes, so that the decision of the House giving us permission can be availed of as soon as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: You have heard the resolution by Mr. Dunning. What is your pleasure?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. WARD: Would it not be well that questions arising out of the evidence be also reported?

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: That will be included as part of the evidence.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am not a member of this Committee; that is my misfortune, and that is the reason why I am sitting here. I would much prefer to be sitting with my colleagues. I crave leave of this committee if, in the course of the discussion, I feel like making certain remarks, asking certain questions, or saying certain things, that I be given permission so to do. I am the sponsor of this Bill, and am in the unfortunate position of being in no man's land at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it the committee is willing to hear Mr. Chevrier. All in favour will so signify.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BLATCHFORD: Mr. Chairman, we have heard a great deal of discussion in connection with this Bill, from members of the House of Commons, for and against. I move that we now hear the promoters, so that we will have both sides of the question. I refer to Mr. Harry Sifton.