

The CHAIRMAN: This committee will be sitting for some little time, Colonel Steel, and I should like you to make a little survey and give us a report as to the conditions there, from a technical standpoint, to see if anything can be done to clear it up before we get through this committee's sittings.

The WITNESS: I will be glad to make a report sir.

The CHAIRMAN: With some suggestion of improvement?

The WITNESS: I can make a suggestion right now. There is only one thing that can be done, and that is to increase the power.

The CHAIRMAN: Of the outlying stations.

The WITNESS: All stations in Saskatchewan and the middle west. They are all low powered. What you want out there is one or two high powered stations.

Mr. BEYNON: Here is what strikes me as one difficulty there. Is it not going to develop into a competition to raise power? Suppose another station comes in across the border five times as strong as Bismark, where is it going to end?

The WITNESS: We now have an agreement between the United States and ourselves with regard to that very question. There are certain channels upon which we can extend power indefinitely; as long as we stay on those channels and increase the power, there will be no complaints from the United States and no competition of that type.

The CHAIRMAN: The same thing applies to the United States with us?

The WITNESS: Exactly.

*By Mr. Beynon:*

Q. Those people are not on that channel, still they interfere with the channel, that is the trouble?—A. If you had a 5 kilowatt station instead of a 500 watt station, the people throughout Saskatchewan would have no difficulty in getting that station.

Q. Could they get Bismark with that station on?—A. With any receiver manufactured since 1928 or 1929 I would say they would have no difficulty.

Q. They cannot do it now; even with the low power of Belle Plane they cannot get Bismark?—A. I made three different tests on three different types of receivers of the modern type in different places, all in and around Regina, and I had no difficulty whatsoever. Now, I did not have the time to go to every receiver in the vicinity of Regina, but I did with three different receivers, three different makes of modern type, and I had no difficulty in separating Bismark and Belle Plaine. I can only offer that for what it is worth, but I can tell you this: I submitted this question to the radio manufacturers of Canada, and they unquestionably supported the statement I have just made, that the modern receivers can and will do it.

*By Mr. McKenzie:*

Q. A very few of the machines they are using out there are of the modern type?—A. That just brings up the difficulty I mentioned before that we have to keep in line with the United States in our technical development. If they are going ahead with the development of modern receivers, then Canada must do the same thing or we drop out of the picture; and we cannot expect United States to maintain their end of the bargain unless we do the same thing over here.

*By Mr. Beynon:*

Q. No matter from which way you face it, it becomes an economic problem?—A. Economics certainly come in; but with regard to this question of no new receivers being placed in operation in the west, I would just like to make this