

Inquiries of the Ministry

I have some statistics here. Over the week end of May 1, 61 empty refrigerator cars were taken on to the island and 95 loads taken off. On May 3, 61 empties were taken on and 9 loads off. On May 4, 44 empties were taken on and 12 loads off. On the early morning of May 5 there were 110 empties at Cape Tormentine awaiting ferrying to Prince Edward Island, and in addition 90 cars en route to the east coast, of which 75 are new 50 foot insulated box cars equipped with vents. I am sure the hon. Member will realize what an improvement that is. As of 5 p.m. on May 4 there were 199 cars located on the island. Therefore it does look as though the C.N.R., either as a result of the prompting of the hon. gentleman or on their own—and I hope it was the latter—are meeting the problem.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**FURTHER CURTAILMENT OF SERVICE BETWEEN MONTREAL AND VANCOUVER**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to answer a question put to me yesterday by the hon. Member for Medicine Hat about another railway, this time the Canadian Pacific. I am informed by the Board of Transport Commissioners that on September 8, 1964 the Canadian Pacific discontinued sleeping car service on trains 7 and 8, The Dominion, except for local service between Toronto-Montreal and Sudbury, and between Fort William-Winnipeg.

Canadian Pacific advised the Board on April 7, that on June 24 next full sleeping and dining car service will be restored on these trains. No subsequent advice has been received from the railway company indicating any change in the proposal or any further adjustment affecting these trains.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): As a supplementary question may I ask the Minister to inquire from the C.P.R. or the Board of Transport Commissioners whether the C.P.R. has given notice to all its postal workers on these two trains that their services will no longer be required after the end of June because it will no longer be carrying the mails?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, I will be glad to make suitable inquiries in whatever is the right quarter with respect to that matter.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Orlikow: Has the Minister received a copy of a resolution which was passed by the Saskatchewan legislature, unanimously I think, protesting the fact that the C.P.R. has cut the service on the transcontinental train The Dominion; and if so would he ask the Board of Transport Commissioners to investigate the matter?

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think any such resolution has been brought to my personal notice, but I will look into the matter and do whatever is required in the circumstances.

REPORTED STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT RESPECTING SUBSIDIES TO C.N.R.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerald A. Regan (Halifax): Is the Minister aware of this statement and, if so, does he have any comment to make on the contention of a privately owned railroad, which with regard to its responsibility to the public operates in a somewhat cavalier manner, that subsidies to the publicly owned Canadian National Railways constitute unfair competition with the aforementioned private railway? These statements were made yesterday.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Yes, I did happen to see a report in the newspapers of some statements by the President of the C.P.R. I have not had time to read it yet, but even when I have had time to do so I doubt whether it would be wise for me to engage in public debate on this matter until such time as Parliament is dealing with this question.

SHIPPING**PAYMENT OF PILOTS AT PORT WELLER AND SARNIA, ONT.**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Perhaps I might take this opportunity to deal with the question which was asked yesterday by the hon. Member for Simcoe North about failure to pay certain of the pilots in the Port Weller and Sarnia area of Ontario. I am informed there was a delay in preparing pay lists due mainly to difficulty in obtaining information concerning coverage required under the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan. Cheques are now going out, and it is expected that all of them will have been issued by the 10th of this month.