

**Mr. Turner:** The railway expects to make—I do not want to betray its competitive position—well in the neighbourhood of \$1 million from this particular line.

**Mr. Starr:** Per year?

**Mr. Turner:** Per year.

**Mr. Starr:** Over and above the cost of construction?

**Mr. Turner:** The cost of construction will have to be depreciated in the normal way; but the depreciation will be amortized over a period of time.

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** The minister's mention of its competitive position leads me to ask another question. I am not familiar with the situation and do not know whether the C.P.R. was at all a factor in the negotiations. Were they included in any negotiations, or are they so removed from the area that they were not even considered?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I know that area pretty well—

**Mr. Starr:** Is this a political answer?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Perhaps it is in the second category of answer. The two railways are about 20 miles apart, and as the proposed branch railway runs north from the Canadian National there would be no interest whatever on the part of the Steel Company in having to pay freight on at least an extra 20 miles through rather rough country, where I timber cruised at one time. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre also knows the area very well.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I might assure the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox that I do not think the problem of level crossings will be very troublesome in that area. Because if the railway crosses one road it is not likely to cross two.

● (7:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Knowing that part of the country myself fairly well I did realize, Mr. Chairman, that there would not be many railway crossings, but I was asked to point this out in general to the government. I am sure the minister will agree that if there are crossings they should be protected, and at the cost of the railway, not of the municipalities. This has been a municipal expense ever since charters have been granted. I contend from now on, that no new lines should be built without the safety devices being built in at the cost of the railway itself.

### *Commercial Fisheries Development*

**Mr. Pickersgill:** With the objectives the hon. gentleman has in mind, of course as Minister of Transport I have the greatest possible sympathy.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 7 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 8—*Report to parliament.*

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Mr. Chairman, in speaking on clause 8, I am not particularly speaking about this bill itself. I wonder if the minister perhaps when this comes before the committee, could see that a list is prepared of all new branch lines which have been constructed within the last ten or 20 years. With that list could there be some details of the financial success or otherwise that those lines have enjoyed, to give us some over-all insight into the over-all transportation problems that we shall have to deal with this year?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think it is a very good idea, sir. In fact, I shall ask the railway to do that for the whole period since the end of the war.

Clause agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Before passing to the next item of business, may I just express my appreciation to hon. members for the co-operation which has been received?

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** The minister did such a good job with this bill that I think we should bring him back as house leader.

### FISHERIES

#### PROVISION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The house resumed from Friday, March 18, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-145, to provide for the development of the commercial fisheries of Canada—Mr. Robichaud—Mr. Batten in the chair.

**Mr. Starr:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think that the business to be undertaken at this time, in the order it was to be taken up, would bring us to item 15 on the order paper, being second reading of the act to provide for the establishment of the Science Council of Canada.