

By the Chairman:

Q. Will you state to the Committee what amount was paid to the different railway companies in the year 1915 for express privileges?—(Consulting documents) I do not think I have it here.

Mr. LOGGIE: Do you mean percentage?

The CHAIRMAN: I desire the actual amount, the amount in dollars.

Mr. LOGGIE: I thought the percentage would be more valuable.

The CHAIRMAN: We have already had that. I want to get the amount in dollars.

Mr. MCKENZIE: I would rather have the dollars.

The WITNESS: I will give you the dollars.

By Mr. Stewart (Lunenburg):

Q. You have already given us the percentage so far as the Dominion Express Company is concerned.—A. That was for all of the express companies. Now the express privilege account for 1915 was distributed as follows—do you want me to give American companies as well as Canadian?

By the Chairman:

Q. I want the statement of the amount paid Canadian railways during 1915 for express privileges?—A. The Canadian Express Company paid \$1,554,427.61; The Canadian Northern Express Company paid \$368,180.03; The Dominion Express Company paid \$5,234,715.64.

Q. What is the total of that amount?—A. That total I would have to add up, because the final total, Mr. Chairman, is a total created by three or four American companies operating in Canada.

Q. State the full total?—A. The American Express Company paid \$390,824.62; and the Great Northern (the Hill roads) paid \$48,087.72; and the Wells, Fargo Company, operating in the Yukon, paid \$8,107.29; and I should have added, in my original statement, the British America, a little Canadian company operating over the Algoma Central Railway, which paid \$5,881.30. These give a total of \$5,610,224.11.

Q. That amount was paid for express privileges on business in Canada during 1915?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you prepared to say what percentage that is of the gross revenue?—A. Yes, that percentage is 49.6 per cent in 1915, express privileges, of gross earnings.

By Mr. Stewart (Lunenburg):

Q. You said 45.9 per cent before.—A. That happened to be for another year, 1911.

By Mr. Loggie:

Q. How does it happen that the Dominion railways received a greater percentage during 1915 of earnings than in other years?—A. On account of express privileges?

Q. Yes.—A. I have no idea, sir.

Q. It seems to be a matter between the railways and express companies?—A. Absolutely an arbitrary amount they fixed between themselves.

Q. That is the reason we have the decrease in net earnings?—A. Undoubtedly.

By the Chairman:

Q. The amount paid for express privileges in Canada during 1915, and which has been described as so much "velvet" to the railway company—A. Not absolutely "velvet;" a very large percentage of "velvet"—

Q. —amounting to \$5,610,244.11, was equal to 5 per cent, on over \$110,000,000 of securities, let us say, for the sake of bringing it down to an investment value. Is there anything to justify the payment of so large an amount, in your judgment, for these privileges?—A. Mr. Chairman, I think frankly I ought not to express an opinion.

Mr. J. L. PAYNE.