

Mr. FRASER: Is there any added accommodation to the hotel on account of the increase in the price; is it still a 500 room hotel?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Yes—well, it has 19 stories with 595 bedrooms. My recollection is that we also have some kind of arrangement, I will not be sure about this, that we can add further stories in the future, if necessary.

Mr. HANBURY: A certain portion only, I think.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Some arrangement of that sort.

Mr. HANBURY: Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY: Is co-operation between the railways working out all right in northern Alberta?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: The answer to that question is the arrangement between the railways in northern Alberta, the Canadian Pacific and ourselves has, I think been eminently satisfactory to both companies, and both companies are working in complete amiability and accord.

Mr. KENNEDY: Do you think it would be a good thing to apply to all of Canada?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: That is a question which I think ought to be left to those who come to that conclusion.

Mr. HANSON: Returning for a moment to the Vancouver situation. It is well known, of course, and I think it ought to be plain here that in return for the undertakings of the Canadian Northern people, the city of Vancouver had given very substantial grants of land and other things. It was not a one sided contract.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I think honestly for myself, if you ask me, whether the bargain was a good one, the bargain which Mackenzie and Mann negotiated was a good one or not, I should have doubts about the wisdom of the contract.

Mr. HANSON: Just what did they really give, and what did you give, because it must be a mutual contract?

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I think Mr. Gzowski, the chief engineer of construction is here he has been familiar with the property for a good many years, and I think he knows probably more about that old contract and the conditions than anyone else, and I would ask him if he would be kind enough to make a brief statement to the committee explaining the situation.

Mr. MCGIBBON: In the meantime, tell me what else is on the—

The CHAIRMAN: Let us finish this up first.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: I think you will be interested in hearing what he has to say.

Mr. GZOWSKI: I first want to say I had nothing to do with the Canadian Northern. The bargain briefly was that the Canadian Northern obtained about 250 acres almost in the centre, the geographical centre of the city of Vancouver. In return, they gave back about 30 acres which was to be used for park purposes and road purposes. The railway company undertook to enter Vancouver via a tunnel, to electrify that tunnel and to electrify all terminals; to put overhead bridges eventually as and when called upon for practically every street on that particular block the property covered; also to make certain developments at the head of False Creek; to make a sub station somewhere at the mouth of the tunnel—I might say the tunnel has never been definitely fixed,—and other small items. At the time that the recent negotiations were made with the city I sat in on these, and we were able to show that we were saving at least \$15,000,000, or, in other words, the city were giving us \$15,000,000 in consideration of building the hotel that was referred to by the minister. That was a very considerable item to give us in lieu of the hotel.