

(d) Upon the delivery of remodelled coach 5043, renumbered 100, the car then in use by the Prime Minister, the old York, itself renumbered 100, was released and renumbered 102.

(e) No money has been spent on this car since its release.

Dr. Manion asked this question:

How much did the first car that Mr. Mackenzie King had cost, and when he was not satisfied with that car, you might get the cost of what the second car he had cost?

The answer is:

(a) In 1927 the Prime Minister's car, No. 100, was remodelled at a total cost of \$44,963.

(b) In 1929 the "York" was remodelled at an expense of \$56,110.54, and was renumbered 100 and assigned to the Prime Minister, old 100 being released and renumbered 92.

Hon. Mr. MANION: So there were two changes made by Mr. King in regard to private cars, one in 1927 and the other in 1929.

The CHAIRMAN: At a cost of \$101,000.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I may say this, Mr. Chairman, in regard to that: it always seemed to me that the Prime Minister of the country, irrespective of which political party he held his faith, was entitled to a suitable vehicle to travel about the country. Our distances in this country are long; sometimes the train services are not particularly convenient, and in the transaction of official duties, it is necessary for the Prime Minister, irrespective of party, to travel through the country, and under those circumstances, I have always felt that whoever he might be, he should have suitable and comfortable travelling accommodations. Now, it was that underlying principle which led to the conversion and alteration of those various cars for both the present and previous Prime Minister, to which reference has been made.

Mr. DUFF: Is it a fact that the car which you termed the old "York," was a wooden car?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: That was originally a wooden underframed car. I would call it that, and that was subsequently turned into a steel underframed car.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: The "York" was originally one of the individual cars assigned to the Governor General, and it was, I understand, a wooden-framed car, and afterwards changed into a steel under-framed.

Mr. DUFF: Do you suggest that the previous Prime Minister, in view of the fact that it was a wooden car, and had to be changed to a steel car or a new car—

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Well, it would have to be altered to a steel underframed car, otherwise it would be unsafe for operating purposes. As a matter of fact, two old cars which were used by the then Governor General were becoming old, and there was a very distinct element of danger in using those. In fact, the operating officers and myself never felt quite comfortable when these two cars were on the road.

Mr. DUFF: Was it your suggestion in view of that fact that that car should be changed?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes.

Mr. DUFF: You took full responsibility?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes.