

Mr. VENIOT: I am trying to give the hon. gentleman the information, but he has placed on my shoulders a heavy task in distinguishing one Mr. Brown from the other. I have told the hon. gentleman and the committee that the first Mr. Brown, of 1927, had absolutely nothing whatever to do with the merger that has been carried on of the Pacific cable and these other interests. Surely that ought to be satisfactory. As to Mr. F. J. Brown, I am informed that he was connected with the old Pacific cable.

Mr. HEAPS: Whom was he connected with at the time this letter was written by the assistant deputy?

Mr. VENIOT: I have not a copy of the letter from which the hon. member has been reading. Will he let me have it?

Mr. HEAPS: The department of which the Postmaster General is the head has duplicated all the correspondence to make it look as though something were being given to the house. I will send it over.

Mr. NEILL: While Mr. Brown is being paged, might I ask a question of the Minister of Justice? Does he consider section one good law? It says: that the governor in council—that means the government—can sell certain things “in the manner specified in the said act,” the said act being the Imperial Telegraphs Act which is named, “and upon the terms set out in the said report,” the report being the report of some conference. The report of the conference is not an annex to the bill; neither is the imperial act. I have sent for the imperial act and I have the report that it is not in the library, so that I do not know whether the conference report is an annex to it or not. So far as I know, it is not. Therefore we are committing ourselves to giving the government power to do a very important thing on the terms of an invisible report of a conference. Fifty years from now, when this comes to be interpreted, that report may not be in existence or not available. This is a very important matter. The members of the house do not seem to appreciate the point of view expressed by the hon. member for North Winnipeg. Does the Minister of Justice not think we should have as an appendix to the act or embodied in the act, the actual terms upon which this important transaction is taking place?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I understand both the report and the imperial act have been laid on the table. I agree that perhaps it would be more convenient if the act had been printed as an annex to this bill. I do not, however, think it is essential that this should be done.

Mr. NEILL: We can find the imperial act at any time and it will be in existence for all time. But the report, which is simply a blue book of the Canadian government, may be here to-day and undiscoverable to-morrow; it may be like this Mr. Brown. I submit that it ought to be embodied in the act or be an annex to it. This act is nothing at all; it is simply a permission to the government to go out and sell something to the world at large. It is limited only by the terms of the imperial act and by the terms of this conference. There is a report somewhere. We do not have it. It is not in the act and it should be an annex to the act.

Mr. LAPOINTE: If it be a mistake, the mistake was also made in the Imperial parliament, because the imperial act also refers to and is really based upon that report.

Mr. BENNETT: It is not often that I find myself so wholly in accord with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, but in this instance I do incline to the belief, although it might mean a little extra printing, that it would be desirable to put upon the statute books as an annex the authority upon which the legislation proceeds. I think the Minister of Justice will agree that the point is rather well taken.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I think it would be better, but as my hon. friend knows, there was some urgency in introducing this bill.

Mr. BENNETT: I agree, and it was because of that that I hesitated to say anything at all about it, but I apprehend that the government has intimated that it will execute this agreement in any event. I think the hon. member for Argenteuil made it perfectly clear the other day that the government, if one might say so without offence, cannot do anything else. The other partners having concluded to dispose of the assets of the enterprise in a certain manner, this partner in a general way has also to do it. I can see no other way out of it myself. But inasmuch as the urgency has passed for the moment, inasmuch as the government has intimated, I assume, that it proposes to do in good faith whatever may be necessary to give effect to the arrangement arrived at by the partners who own the undertaking, I think it would not be too difficult to add as a schedule to the act the report. I think the suggestion is certainly a sound one. It is one which in times past I have urged upon legislatures and parliaments, so that anyone who picks up legislation for the purpose of ascertaining what it means shall be able without reference to any other document to find out exactly what was