

to get it under way. Now that we have it under way I think it would be unwise to tamper with it, and therefore the committee should be continued as requested by the chairman. The mode of working it out by sub-committees should be left entirely to the committee. The question before us is whether we are willing to continue that committee or not. I would request that it be so put.

Moved by Mr. Mountain, seconded by Mr. Jameson, that the committee be continued.

MR. ARMSTRONG: My motion would come in as an amendment, I suppose. It merely provides that they bring in two separate reports; one including transportation as generally understood, which might include grades, and that the second report go into the details, so that they may be discussed separately.

MR. LEOFRED: I think my friend will see that it is the intention of the committee to present two reports and more. It is their intention to present four reports.

MR. MOUNTAIN: The reports are from sub-committees to the Committee on Transportation. But when the Committee on Transportation reports to this meeting it will only have one report.

MR. COSTE: I have no objection to committees doing all kinds of work, the more the better. But these reports should not be made to the Annual Meeting. They should go through the general routine of the Society in Montreal, at headquarters. It is an impossibility to take up in two days a question of this magnitude. We cannot discuss these details at an Annual Meeting. The construction of railways, steamers and elevators are subjects of a great deal of interest in the transportation question, but they are merely a means to an end. The more information we get about them the better, but that is work for the Society at its meetings in Montreal. It is not work for an Annual Meeting. The only subjects that should come before us here are the subjects of general interest and not details. The time at our disposal is too short. To adequately discuss this report will take hours.

MR. JAMESON: I think we are losing valuable time. The only question before the meeting is the motion to continue the committee. I would ask Mr. Armstrong to withdraw his amendment.

MR. KERRY: Mr. Chairman, before you put the motion I would like to be clear on one point. We are all pleased to have an active committee and we are delighted to continue them in their activity, but we have a report before us from that committee. I have not seen it. To what extent in continuing this committee do we accept that report? Does it become an official document of the Society in any way. Is it to be considered as a document approved by the Society or is it merely information for us?

THE PRESIDENT: The question Mr. Kerry brings up is one that has occurred to me. The great trouble with our Society is this; let us suppose that the main duty of the Annual Meeting be confined say, to making suggestions to the incoming Council; that all the other work shall be done by the Council, and the annual Meeting be simply an initiator of new ideas. That seems a very simply and proper idea of dividing the work between the Annual Meeting and the continuous body of Council. But those of us who have had experience of Council know that we have gathered together and sat from nearly eight o'clock until past twelve in getting through ordinary routine work. Work of great importance, of course, but not of the character of these questions. There is a very heavy burden of that kind of work on the Council. If we can make time at the Annual Meetings for discussing, adopting and making our own or rejecting the reports made to the Annual Meeting, it will be well. I do not know where else we are going to do it. We do not seem to have the organization or machinery to get through our work properly.

MR. KERRY: I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, following your remarks, that a committee of this kind should be appointed by the Council and should report to Council. If considered necessary, that report could be referred to the Annual Meeting with a recommendation by Council that it be adopted by the Society as a whole. My recollection is that the committee was originally a committee of Council. By some mistake at the last Annual Meeting a committee of Council was continued as a committee of the Society.

MR. MOUNTAIN: It has become a committee of the Society since the last Annual Meeting, and your committee do not ask that any action be taken on the report. It was intended as a progress report, to show that they had not been altogether idle, although it is a long time since the committee was formed.

MR. MURDOCH: It is simply a progress report and a request to be continued. We are not discussing the report.

MR. KERRY: I think an amendment is still in order. I would move in amendment that the committee be thanked for its services and discontinued and that a recommendation be made by this meeting to Council that it arrange for the continuance of this work by the same committee.

MR. RUST: I will second that motion.

MR. JAMESON: In speaking to that I will just sound a word of warning to the meeting. You must deal fairly with your committees if you wish them to do the work. There is a large amount of work and very much time is involved in doing it. You must leave them a fair amount of latitude. If at the Annual Meeting someone who is not familiar with the amount of work that has been done or the exact state of affairs practically moves a vote of want of confidence, you will not be able to get committees to act.

MR. MOUNTAIN: Just a word, Mr. Chairman. This committee has invited such men as the Allans and others connected with the different transportation companies. The committee felt that it had not enough information on hand to ask these gentlemen to appear at their meetings as yet, but they have all accepted. They have not yet been asked to attend. I think it would be extremely objectionable to dismiss the committee at this stage. I for one would feel that very strongly.

MR. McNAB: Mr. Chairman, I consider that the amendment proposed by Mr. Kerry is very uncomplimentary to the gentlemen who have been doing the work of the sub-committees. Something has been presented for the information of the Annual Meeting but it was not intended to be discussed in detail as a recommendation. I think if the Annual Meeting will allow this committee to go on for a year until they produce something—if it is not in line with the views of the meeting then discharge them, but do give them a chance before you discharge them.—(Applause).

THE PRESIDENT: Perhaps both views might be combined. The committee may be continued as at present and I think Mr. Mountain would have no objection that the report of the Transportation Committee should be presented to the next Annual Meeting through the Council. In that way Mr. Kerry's idea could be carried out in the future business of the Society. It is not with regard to this special Committee of Transportation that Mr. Kerry is speaking.

MR. KERRY: No, it is entirely a matter of general procedure.

MR. MOUNTAIN: He used the words "discontinue the committee."

THE PRESIDENT: It is unfortunate to use this Committee on Transportation as a corpus vile on which to act in the first place.

MR. KERRY: Mr. McNab and Mr. Jameson have completely misunderstood the tenor of my motion. The motion is not to dismiss the committee or discontinue their labours. It simply places the machinery in a little different shape so that the appointment of the same committee shall come from the Council and not from the Society. As Mr. Coste says it is out of the question for this meeting to discuss at length so important a recommendation. We must recognize that the Society has grown into a very important body and that any official action must be very carefully considered before it is taken. I think it proper that anything coming before the Society for action should be thoroughly considered and recommended, and everyone should have time to look into it before we are asked for approval. It is simply to avoid that difficulty and not in any way to interfere with the programme these gentlemen have mapped out.

THE PRESIDENT: Could you put your motion in this way that as far as possible the report of committee to the Annual Meeting be made to the Council? How would that do without reference to this special committee?

MR. KERRY: That would be quite satisfactory, Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDENT: If the meeting agrees, I will put Mr. Mountain's motion as a substantive motion, and also Mr. Kerry's after it is altered in that way.

MR. McNAB: I think Mr. Kerry is perfectly right in what he has said, that it is impossible to discuss intelligently questions of that kind at this meeting, when you get the information handed to you just as you come in the door. A great deal of that is largely the fault of ourselves in our management of the Society. If we or the Council would see that these things were out in sufficient time for the members to get them and thoroughly digest them before they come here, a great deal of time would be saved.

MR. MOUNTAIN: I will apologize for that, Mr. Chairman, it is no fault of the Executive of the Society. It is the fault of our committee.