

HON. MR. GRAHAM: No, that is closed. This gentleman wants to place some figures before the Committee concerning the distribution of the mail transportation in Canada. The president thinks the Canadian National Railway is not getting its proper share. Of course, the solution of that would be up to the Post Office Department, but the Canadian National wants to place before the Committee these figures. I move Mr. Fairbairn be heard.

MR. JELLIFF: Second the motion.

The motion agreed to.

R. L. FAIRBAIRN, called and examined.

By the Chairman:

Q. What is your name and position?—A. My name is R. L. Fairbairn, and my position is manager of the Postal Service Bureau in charge of passenger train service and mail traffic.

HON. MR. GRAHAM: That ought to be a big enough job for anybody.

THE WITNESS: We have felt for some time that we are not receiving our proper proportion of the mail traffic of Canada. That has been due to the way the railways have grown up in Canada. The Canadian Pacific have a through service between the east and the west, and the two services, Montreal to Vancouver and Toronto to Vancouver, give the Canadian Pacific Railway approximately \$2,000,000 mail revenue per annum.

By the Chairman:

Q. And the Canadian Pacific has all of that?—A. Yes. That gives them a very decided advantage.

By Mr. KYTE:

Q. They have \$2,000,000 worth of traffic, but is that all of the traffic?—A. No; they get practically that amount on these two services alone.

Q. Is that all the mail service between these points?—A. Through mail; Montreal to Vancouver and Toronto to Vancouver. Now, the mileage in Canada of the Canadian National is 20,510, the Canadian Pacific 14,895. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1924, the mail earnings for the Canadian National were \$3,162,977.51—

By the Chairman:

Q. That is the gross receipts?—A. The gross receipts from the mail traffic in Canada. The Canadian Pacific was \$3,658,937.40.

MR. KYTE: A difference of some \$300,000.

MR. STEWART (Humboldt): Would you repeat that figure for the Canadian National gross earnings?—A. I have a few copies of it here which I can pass around.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Canadian National, \$3,162,977.51. Even with a straight comparison the Canadian Pacific Railway has a half a million dollars more.

THE WITNESS: The earnings per mile of road per annum for the Canadian National were \$154.21, as against \$245.65. Now, take the mileage of the two lines, the Canadian National has 57.9 per cent, and the Canadian Pacific 42.1 per cent. If the mail traffic was divided on the basis of traffic of the two lines, the Canadian National Railway is short \$786,911.23 per annum.

By Hon. Mr. Graham:

Q. In other words, if the Canadian National Railways had its share of the mail traffic, its gross receipts would be \$786,911.23 more?—A. Yes, sir. Now, as everybody knows, the Canadian National Railways serves practically every

[Mr. R. L. Fairbairn.]