

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ROOM 368,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

TUESDAY, June 23, 1931.

The Select Standing Committee on Railways and Shipping met at 11 o'clock a.m. Honourable J. D. Chaplin, Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Railways and Canals will not be here for a few minutes, but in the meantime we will go ahead with the work.

SIR HENRY THORNTON: Mr. Chairman, Dr. McGibbon asked a question at the last meeting in regard to fire and marine insurance placed or renewed with underwriters during 1930.

The fire insurance placed or renewed amounted to \$9,912,000. Premium paid on that insurance, \$26,927.22. Marine insurance, amount placed \$11,500,000; premium paid, \$153,770.08.

Mr. Fraser asked the number of pensioners living in Canada or the United States and other countries. The answer is: Pension cheques mailed to pensioners in Canada to 2,900 individuals; to pensioners in the United States (who were formerly employed on our American lines) 336 individuals; to pensioners in the United States (who were formerly employed on our Canadian lines) 119 individuals; to pensioners living in other countries, 25 individuals.

Mr. Fraser asked the number of employees on the pay-rolls, divided between employees in Canada and employees in the United States. The answer is that the average number of employees on the Canadian National Railways system, including hotels and the Central Vermont Railway, for the year 1930, was 102,773. Of that number there were employed on Canadian lines, including hotels, 90,510; and within the borders of the United States, 12,263.

Dr. McGibbon asked, What is the operating ratio of the Chateau Laurier compared with what it was before the enlargement? The answer is that the new wing was opened in March, 1929, and the operating ratio for the eight years, excluding extraordinary alteration expenses charged to operation, is as follows:—

1923.. . . .	95·36 per cent	1927.. . . .	75·20 per cent
1924.. . . .	90·14 per cent	1928.. . . .	76·69 per cent
1925.. . . .	87·85 per cent	1929.. . . .	83·96 per cent
1926.. . . .	79·99 per cent	1930.. . . .	83·18 per cent

The ratio for the eight years under consideration is 83·28.

Dr. McGibbon also asked this question: What are the names of firms from which radio equipment is purchased by the Canadian National Railways?

The answer is: During the years 1929 and 1930, radio equipment and supplies, and repair parts, were purchased from the following firms:

Northern Electric Company, of Montreal, manufacturers of radio equipment. Our purchases from this firm consisted of broadcasting equipment, including public address systems for hotels, and other equipment used in broadcasting stations, also vacuum tubes, microphones, etc.