

## Railway Act

am concerned, I have this resolution before me, and I do not know whether it deals with the board of transport commissioners or all the other boards such as the maritime transport commission, the board of transport commissioners, the royal commissioners, the transport controller and so on. What is the jurisdiction of all these boards? I remember that in 1945 and 1946 I took objection to this board of transport commissioners on the ground that they had no jurisdiction to deal with certain problems of my province, at any rate. However, they were sent down there at that time, and they had a sitting. After a week or ten days and a great deal of expense they ended their sitting and decided they had no jurisdiction. Since that time I have often wondered whether any jurisdiction had been given to them.

A few days ago I noticed that they gave a ruling with reference to a railway bridge in my province. It was a most peculiar ruling. I think I have something here that explains it. One of the members, I think it was the chief commissioner, who has since resigned, filed a minority report. As hon. members know, this bridge was operated by the Canadian National Railways in conjunction with the Murray Harbour Railway. As I said a few days ago when speaking on a railway matter, the theory is they are going to pull up the railway track for 45 or 50 miles and ship it off to some other place. But listen to the report of the commissioners. Two of them found this—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. Perhaps I should remind the hon. member that this resolution deals with an increase in the salaries of the board of transport commissioners. It has nothing to do with the reports the board has made from time to time. The hon. member may find an opportunity to discuss this matter when the bill is before the house.

**Mr. McLure:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know, but it always seems to be my lot that when anything comes up and Your Honour has the privilege of being chairman of the committee you like to push me off.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I am always very sorry when it is my misfortune to call the hon. gentleman to order. But I think he would not want to leave on *Hansard* the words he just used, namely that the chairman likes "to push me off".

**Mr. McLure:** Mr. Chairman, we will bury the hatchet at that.

**Mr. Knowles:** It depends on where you bury it.

**Mr. McLure:** We are dealing with the board of transport commissioners and the increase in the salaries that they are to receive. I was just speaking about the jurisdiction of this board and how they are to operate in the future. These men are going to get great increases in salaries, and I was just trying to prove that they had no jurisdiction and when they do bring in a report it is what you might call an unreasonable one. I was just quoting from a recent report. I had just got this far and said that when they were dealing with this bridge that they have now condemned here is what two of them said after the chief commissioner had brought in his report but not in accord with theirs:

Having regard to the fact that the railways have from time to time found it necessary to apply for increased freight rates, etc., which are generally opposed by the public—

That is true, all right. I continue:

—it would appear only right that the board should approve of any applications which will result in economies of operation whenever and wherever such economies can be effected without causing undue inconvenience to the public.

Therefore they do away with this little railway down in Prince Edward Island.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I think the hon. member will be reasonable enough to realize that by this time he is definitely out of order.

**Mr. Green:** Surely it is in order for an hon. member to point out where there have been extremely unwise decisions made by the board. This is a resolution which is preliminary to a measure which will increase their salaries. Surely an hon. member can submit cases to show that the increases should not be granted. That is all the hon. member for Queens is doing.

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra has put his finger on the very point. This is a preliminary measure, and perhaps when the bill comes before the house the other points concerning the jurisdiction of this board and the reports they have made from time to time may be discussed. Right now all we have before us is a resolution dealing with the increases in their salaries; that is all.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Chairman, I suggest in all seriousness that what the hon. member is doing is supporting the contention that the board needs to be strengthened. After all he is showing why it should be strengthened, although he does not agree it can best be strengthened by increasing the salaries of the same people.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I do not think that because we have two hon. members taking the same attitude it strengthens the point of order. As