

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I would like that what I have to say about that should not be reported.

The CHAIRMAN: My answer to that is that we will not take it now. We will defer that particular statement to another time when we are in committee without having a reporter. Does that meet with your ideas?

Hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. HEAPS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Beaubien has raised a point which might be decided now, as to the bringing of all the officials of the company here. They have to be here in case any questions are asked on which information is required; and I think the quicker these men can be got back to their work the better for all concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: I am in your hands, as far as that is concerned. I have tried to keep order, and you have all helped me in every way; but as far as this suggestion is concerned, it is absolutely in your own hands.

Mr. MCGIBBON: Mr. Chairman, apropos of that, there is a story around that certain of the men come here every session and make speeches, and after they have spoken, they think the House should prorogue.

Mr. DUFF: After our meeting last night, which of course I cannot say very much about because it was private, but after the information which we received at that meeting, both from Mr. Grant, Sir Henry and the Minister of Railways, I am inclined to think that unless there is some particular item which some member of the committee wants to bring up, we could very well pass a resolution which I am going to move. When I move this resolution, it does not mean that somebody may not have something to say; I do not wish for a moment to deter any member from asking any question with regard to the statement, but in order to bring it properly before the committee I am going to move that the report and estimates of the Canadian National Railways be accepted by the committee and adopted.

That will bring the matter clearly before the committee, and then if any member wants to ask any question, he will be at liberty to do so.

Mr. FRASER: Let me ask what is the situation with regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific branch lines? Are they a paying proposition or are they a load on the railway?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: May I ask you particularly what you refer to?

Mr. FRASER: That from Jasper.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: That is part of the main line.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Mr. Chairman, I will second Mr. Duff's motion.

Mr. GEARY: Mr. Chairman, nobody at this end can hear anything that is said by anyone a third of the way up the table, and much less can we hear Sir Henry or the Chairman.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Can you hear me now, Colonel?

Mr. GEARY: I can, when you look at me.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: There is nothing I would rather look at.

Mr. HANBURY: I would suggest that the speaker might stand.

The CHAIRMAN: Instead of two or three talking together, if the gentleman addressing the chair would stand up, it will be far easier to hear him, and then the others can hear him and keep quiet.

Mr. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, my question is, what is the standing of the line from Jasper to Prince Rupert? Is it a paying line or not a paying line?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: It is not a paying line.

Mr. FRASER: How far does it go behind?