

Mr. BIGGAR: Now, Mr. Chairman, I have no further witnesses that I think the committee need hear. One could go far afield on fishing excursions to find out what a lot of people who have studied the railway situation think about it, but so far we have confined ourselves to people directly concerned in the administration or operation of the railways. Once we go beyond that we are into a field which is probably too large to cover.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Have you examined the correspondence of people who have written to the committee offering advice, or who have offered it orally?

Mr. BIGGAR: Yes. I have a large number of communications. Some of them came to me, some of them came to the leader of the Government, some to the Chairman of the committee, and some to the Secretary. I have gone over them and can indicate their character.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Is there anything constructive in their proposals?

Mr. BIGGAR: There are some suggestions with regard to particular lines and the elimination of duplicate services, but there is nothing of a kind different from what has been dealt with by the railway witnesses. There are a large number of resolutions, some of them directed to persuading the committee that the financial situation is such as to necessitate some important change in policy. A great many others are from mass meetings in towns, and meetings of Labour organizations, saying that no step towards amalgamation or unification or co-operation ought to be taken. Those are along the lines of the evidence the committee has heard.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And you have some from people residing along lines that have been mentioned as capable of abandonment?

Mr. BIGGAR: There are a number of protests against the abandonment of lines and the reduction of services. The resolutions are from mass meetings held in towns on lines which would be affected by abandonment. That is generally the character of the whole lot, of which there are probably 50 or 60.

The CHAIRMAN (Right Hon. Mr. Graham): Have we not really touched all those points?

Mr. BIGGAR: I have been over all the communications, and I think all the points that are raised in them have been the subject of discussion.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: I think most of the members of the committee have received those communications.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: How would it do to just list them in the record?

Mr. BIGGAR: It would be quite easy to put in a list of the communications that have been received. I have made an abstract of them, so I could run over the character of them. I have indicated their character in general terms.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Beaubien): How long would it take you to read the list and say in two words what is contained in the communications?

Mr. BIGGAR: A quarter of an hour.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Beaubien): In that way it would go into the minutes.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Mr. Chairman, so far in this inquiry we have heard from the two railways and from labour, but we have not heard from two other sections of our citizens who are very much interested, I am sure. One has been referred to frequently as "the forgotten taxpayer." The other is the user of our railroads, including manufacturers and shippers. If there has been no request from either of them I am disappointed, for I would have expected that some of the associations representing business interests would have asked to appear.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Beaubien): Perhaps they are on the list.

Mr. BIGGAR: I think the only communication that comes within the description Senator McRae has given is one which comes from an organization, the