

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: Every cent of that eventually would appear as labour.

Hon. Mr. MANION: Let me get that clear. You have two offices down the street, and you are paying \$500 a month rent for each of them. If you amalgamated and went into one office, you would save \$500. How do you figure that as a labour cost?

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: It really becomes an academic question with regard to that point. But eventually, it comes down to the definition of wealth and what constitutes wealth.

Hon. Mr. MANION: We are not discussing economics as an abstract question; we are discussing the savings made in the telegraphs and express, and I do not get that. I know something about economics, but I do not see where you figure, if you save \$500 a month in office rent that it is a saving on labour. When Mr. Beaubier speaks about labour, he is talking of the men who are working in the telegraph system.

Mr. HANBURY: That is my interest.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I must agree with the minister on that. It is not just a matter of dollars and cents, it is the number of workingmen.

Mr. GEARY: Material and labour.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I should like to mention this again. I think we should have some provision by which it shall never become possible that the holdings of the Canadian National Railways will be less than 50 per cent of the stock.

Hon. Mr. FULLERTON: A clause to cover that point could easily be added.

Mr. GEARY: Fifty per cent of the voting stock.

Hon. Mr. EULER: The control.

Hon. Mr. FULLERTON: We would never enter into an agreement under any other conditions.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I agree with you, but it is just as well to have the statute say so. I think the statute should provide that the Canadian National will never have less than fifty per cent of the stock.

Hon. Mr. MANION: Since you have brought that up, I agree with you; Mr. Anderson has been trying to draw up a clause in that regard. If it is agreeable to the committee, I should like to do this; he will try to draw a clause that would cover that point, and an amendment could be offered in the House along that line; but I do not think the committee should be put in the position, in view of last year's legislation, of refusing to facilitate co-operation. In view of that, it seems to me that the committee might give unanimous consent to the introduction of those bills this afternoon. I should like to introduce the bill this afternoon, but I have to get the unanimous consent especially if we are going to get it through this year. If the committee gives its unanimous consent, we can have the discussion, and so far as I am concerned, we will endeavour to have all the information that is asked for to-day, and any other information we can get. This is not my bill. These bills are sent to me by Mr. Fullerton and Mr. Beatty—

Hon. Mr. EULER: As minister you have to sponsor them?

Hon. Mr. MANION: That is the point, or have them brought in as a private bill. If it had been earlier in the session, I think I should have insisted that they bring them in as private bills, but it is so late in the session that it is going to be quite difficult to get them through the house this session, unless it is done by the unanimous consent of the house. I think the committee might agree to my introducing them this afternoon, and on the second reading, go into committee of the whole—

Hon. Mr. EULER: I see no objection.