

EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, February 15, 1962.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you will please come to order. I see a quorum. The first item on the agenda this morning is the calling for a motion to print from day to day 750 copies in English and 250 copies in French of our minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Mr. MCFARLANE: I so move.

Mr. CROUSE: I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been moved and seconded. Agreed?

Motion agreed to.

We shall now take up Bill C-48. We had the order of reference read last night, so I shall now call clause 1.

On clause one.

Mr. Balcer, the Minister of Transport, will now explain the purpose of the bill and introduce the officials from his department.

Hon. LEON BALCER (*Minister of Transport*): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, we meet today to consider two branch lines of railway; the first bill is C-48, to amend chapter 13 of the legislation which provided for a branch line to be constructed by the Canadian National Railways from Optic lake to Chisel lake in the Province of Manitoba, in order to enable the railways to instal an additional eight miles to a new mine opening at that point.

Secondly, we shall take up Bill No. C-63 respecting the construction of a branch line from Whitecourt, Alberta, approximately 23 miles, to serve a new sulphur plant which is opening up in that area.

Gentlemen, I have with me three witnesses. To my right is Mr. George Scott, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transport; and the two witnesses appearing for the Canadian National Railways are Mr. Purves, chief of development and Mr. Macdougall, general solicitor. We have with us also Mr. Fortier, the legal officer of my department. I know the committee is interested in gaining a thorough knowledge of what these branch lines proposals are all about. You will want to know the industries which are involved, the economics of the proposals, the traffic which is expected to accrue to the lines, and the general nature of the assurance which the railway company has that these ventures will be profitable. This information is available and you will hear presently from the witnesses who have come before you in respect of these matters.

Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I turn to Bill No. C-48, which is a proposal to amend chapter 13 of the Statutes of Canada, 1957-58. This legislation had to do with construction of a line of railway by the Canadian National from Optic lake to Chisel lake, a distance of 52 miles in the province of Manitoba. This branch line is referred to as branch line number one in a schedule to that act which also included provision for the acquisition of another line which was called branch line number two, and with which we are not concerned here.

Bill No. C-48 provides for an extension of eight miles to the 52 miles which have just been completed under the original act. You will recall that the 52 mile line was needed to reach a zinc-copper mine at Chisel lake by the Hudson Bay