

pensation Board by the contributing employers and when an employee is injured and reports have been submitted in due course by the employer, the employee, and the attending physician, the Compensation Board begin at once to pay weekly compensation to the injured person. These payments continue until evidence is adduced before the Compensation Board and a decision rendered. As soon as the man is reported as having been restored to health, the whole amount of compensation is paid over directly by the board. Now, under this proposed plan it is necessary that a certain amount be placed in the hands of the Compensation Board by the railway company or by the Government to enable it to make payments by way of compensation to railway employees along the lines that I have stated. There is a provision in the resolution in regard to that, but it says that the Minister of Finance "may" do so and so. I think it should go further and say that the Finance Minister must see to it that in each province where the Compensation Act provides for the weekly payment of compensation as soon as the report is laid before the Board, funds should be provided to enable the Compensation Board to pay that weekly indemnity. Railway employees should be placed in as good a position as employees of any other kind.

Mr. REID: Under this resolution we have power to do that. The object of the resolution is to make everything work satisfactorily and harmoniously in co-operation with the Compensation Boards in the several provinces. We are taking power to pay them their share of the cost of the operation of the board, and we can easily deposit from time to time small amounts to facilitate the carrying out of the work of the Compensation Board. We have been working very harmoniously with the board; of course, we had to act in accordance with the legislation passed last year. If this resolution is passed and a Bill founded upon it adopted, I feel sure that there will be no trouble or difficulty either with the Board or in connection with any employee that may be injured or killed.

Mr. COPP: As I said at the outset, I feel that the minister is on the right track and is endeavouring to meet fairly all the points brought up by the Compensation Board. But while we are doing this, let us see that everything is absolutely understandable by the Compensation Boards and by the men to whom this legislation is intended to apply

[Mr. Copp.]

Under the resolution before the committee, if the intention of the minister is to see to it that the funds are placed in the hands of the Compensation Board; that will be very satisfactory to the different associations representing the employees of the Intercolonial railway.

In answer to a question put by the hon. member for Antigonish and Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) as to whether a man employed on the Canadian National Railways must be a member of the Provident Fund before he can come under this Act, I understood the minister to say that he must be a member of the Provident Fund and contribute to the fund before he can come under the provisions of the Compensation Act.

Mr. REID: Any employee of the Canadian Government Railways, say of the Intercolonial railway, who is not a member of the Provident Fund, comes, in any case, under the Compensation Act. But if he is a member of the Provident Fund, he must, of course, elect under which he will come.

Mr. COPP: That is not the way in which I understood the minister to answer my hon. friend.

Mr. REID: Perhaps I did not understand the hon. member.

Mr. COPP: An employee comes under this Act whether he is a member of the Provident Fund or not?

Mr. REID: Every employee of the Intercolonial railway comes under the Compensation Act whether he is a member of the Provident Fund or not.

Mr. COPP: Then this resolution and the Bill to be founded thereon would cover the case about which I wrote the minister a few days ago. I refer to Mr. Edward Gould who was killed at Aulac station on the Canadian Government Railways.

Mr. REID: Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE: I wish to add my approval of the suggestion made that something should be done for those old men who retired from the road some years ago. The compensation that they receive now of \$20 a month is entirely inadequate. In fact, I know of several cases in which there is a great deal of hardship. The minister has stated that this is a general scheme by which all these matters may be dealt with, but there is great danger that those men may be dead before their case is considered. I would urge, with other hon. gentlemen who have spoken on this point, that this matter