

Canadian National Railways

Mr. BRACKEN: I am willing that the resolution be allowed to pass, but I do suggest that that amendment should be made; otherwise it looks as though we are saying that for all time they can make all the losses they choose and those losses will be met by parliament. I expect that they will be met, but if things run wild some time in the future and the government has to come to parliament, with the amendment the minister is now suggesting we shall have an opportunity to examine and deal with it. I thank the minister for acceding to that suggestion.

Mr. ABBOTT: Like my hon. friend, I would be the last to suggest that parliament should not have an opportunity to deal promptly with any deficit of any of these publicly owned corporations. I am satisfied that parliament would have such an opportunity under the section provided in the bill to be distributed shortly, but I repeat that if any hon. member feels that there is any doubt I shall gladly agree to an amendment to make it perfectly clear.

Mr. BRACKEN: Is the bill available for distribution?

Mr. ABBOTT: It probably has not a number yet, but I have a copy here. Perhaps we could introduce the bill and it could be looked at, as was the case with the Tariff Board Act, between now and tomorrow, and we can settle that question when the bill comes up for second reading.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I observe that that part of the resolution which we are querying is new.

Mr. ABBOTT: That is right.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): While we all appreciate what the minister says with regard to the rights of parliament being maintained by the last two lines of the resolution, it seems to us that the new wording is discordant with the rest of the section.

Mr. ABBOTT: It is section 9 of the bill. If I could have the bill introduced, I should be glad to discuss an amendment to that section tomorrow if it is thought necessary.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Abbott thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 346, to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain capital expenditures made and capital indebtedness incurred by the Canadian National Railways system during the calendar year 1948, and to authorize the guarantee by

[Mr. Abbott.]

His Majesty of certain securities to be issued by the Canadian National Railway Company.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS—PROVISION FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF POWER
COMMISSION

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Mines and Resources) moved the second reading of Bill No. 340, respecting the supplying of electrical power in the Northwest Territories.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Golding in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. MacKINNON: Mr. Chairman, I think it proper that I should make a fairly full statement at this time. I am making this statement more extensive than I ordinarily would in order to anticipate questions that might be asked.

It will be recalled that in recent years very promising mineral deposits have been discovered in the Yellowknife district north of Great Slave lake, Northwest Territories, and several mines are now producing. Many other mining claims have been staked and are in the process of development.

Among the mines that have gone beyond the preliminary development stages and are now underground are the following:

Con-Rycon Mines, operated by Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company
Negus Mines Limited
Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Limited
Thompson Lundmark Gold Mines Limited
Beaulieu Yellowknife Mines Limited
Discovery Yellowknife Mines Limited
North Inca Mines Limited
Diversified Mining Interests
Viking Yellowknife Mines Limited
Ptarmigan Mines Limited
Akaitcho Mines Limited

Of these the Con-Rycon Mines are milling 270 tons daily, and expect to increase this to 300 tons daily during 1948, as well as improving their plant. Negus Mines Limited, another gold producer, milled an average of 65 tons daily during 1947, besides other improvements, and an addition to their mill will increase its daily capacity to 160 tons. Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines Limited have done considerable work both at their surface plant and underground, and will soon begin operations on a 200 ton basis. They anticipate increasing this tonnage substantially as soon as hydro-