

name and address of an Ottawa agent, where he may be served, for the company, with any notice, summons, regulation, order, direction, decision, report, or other document, and the Board may direct that the fact of service upon an agent and the nature of a document served shall be communicated to the company by telegraph.

There is, as yet, no provision for an appeal from one commissioner or from two commissioners sitting together, to what might be termed a "Full Board." The desirability of a right of appeal to the Board itself has not yet been determined.

The appointment of a lawyer as assistant chief commissioner, ranking next to the chief commissioner, will enable the assistant chief to preside over a division of the Board in which the other members are not lawyers. In introducing the bill, the Minister said, referring to the new position of assistant chief commissioner:—"It has been found absolutely necessary that the head of that Board, the chairman conducting its affairs, should be a legal man with power to grasp the legal situation, with a firm grasp of the Railway Act." If both the chief commissioner and the assistant chief commissioner are present at a sitting, and disagree upon a question of law, the ruling of the chief would prevail. The evident intention is that in all possible cases either the chief or the assistant chief shall preside. This is a wise provision.

The question of costs in cases before the Board received some attention in the discussion, as did also the question of counsel to represent parties opposed to the railway companies. The latter suggestion would seem to lead to multiform complications, and savours of a form of democracy which does not, at the moment, appeal to us.

We feel assured that His Majesty's advisers will be mindful that this is, perhaps, the most important Court, and possesses wider powers than any Court in Canada, and that it is not a political shelf. At the time the creation of a Commission was mooted it was said—unofficially no doubt—on the part of the Government, that the intention was to appoint three mem-