

change. Agriculture has been nearly choked to death by protection. Our protectionist friends tell us that all other industries are in an awful state. Protection is ruining agriculture, our basic industry. Our farmers have been delivered over to the tender mercies of those who by their wealth have power to secure legislation that can be called by no better name than that which the late Sir Richard Cartwright gave it, "Robbery by law". The woollen manufacturers tell us that their industry is about to fall; that the country is going from bad to worse. Our banks are tumbling one after the other; no one can tell what is going to happen next; there is no confidence in any of our banks. At the same time politicians in this House have successfully resisted any effective method of bank inspection.

What shall be done? The one thing to do to-day is to free the agricultural industry from the burden of protection. Take all protection off the cost of living and the cost of production. The farmers themselves then will redeem this country from the state it is now in. Production on the farms will be increased; our vacant lands will be filled up without any expensive immigration policy either; our factories will be busy again supplying goods for the country; and, best of all, there will be a virile contented population on the land, without which no country in the world can survive.

On motion of Mr. Hoey the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Graham the House adjourned at 1.20 a.m. (Wednesday).

Wednesday, May 14, 1924

The House met at three o'clock.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

BILLS TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRANCH LINES

Mr. FRANK CAHILL (Pontiac) presented the sixth report of the select standing committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, as follows:

Your committee have considered Bill No. 38, an act respecting the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, and have agreed to report the same without amendment.

Your committee have considered the following bills and have agreed to report them with amendments, viz.,

Bill No. 30, an act respecting the construction of a Canadian National Railway line between Rousseau and Laurent, in the province of Quebec.

Bill No. 46, an act respecting the construction of a Canadian National Railway line from Lloydminster, in the province of Saskatchewan, northwesterly 45 miles.

In compliance with the order of May 12, your committee have further considered Bill No. 40, an act respecting the construction of a Canadian National Railway line to Mile 41 of the Melfort branch near Nipawin in the province of Saskatchewan, and have agreed to report the same with further amendments.

With regard to the last mentioned bill, your committee beg to recommend that the title be changed to read as follows: "An act respecting the construction of a Canadian National Railway line either to Mile 41 near Nipawin or in a northeasterly direction to a point in Township 48, Range 13, west of the second meridian, in the province of Saskatchewan."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

LEAVE TO SIT WHILE HOUSE IN SESSION

Mr. THOMAS VIEN (Lotbiniere) presented the fifth report of the select standing committee on Banking and Commerce, as follows:

Your committee recommend that leave be granted them to sit while the House is in session.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Mr. VIEN moved that the report be received and concurred in.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if these motions are to pass as they have been passing, granting large committees one after the other power to sit while the House is in session, the House itself will become a mere formality. It would seem to me it would have been better had the committees commenced work sooner, and not now be usurping the time of parliament. I do not like consenting to so many committees sitting while the House is in session.

Mr. VIEN: I may say that this motion met with the same objections in the Banking and Commerce committee. It is not the intention, so far as I can judge, to sit while the House is in session, except in exceptional cases. The committee, under the powers that were granted to it, have summoned witnesses from Washington and New York, the presidents of banks and experts on financial matters, and they have felt that it would be quite unfair for these gentlemen, who are very busy, to sit only from eleven to one o'clock and then keep them waiting over until the committee sits the next day. Therefore, we have asked the privilege to sit while the House is in session, but I think it is the general consensus of opinion in the committee not to abuse that privilege but to exercise it only out of regard for these gentlemen who are being summoned to appear as witnesses, and who are coming here, not compulsorily, but quite voluntarily.

Mr. L. H. MARTELL (Hants): Mr. Speaker, I should also like to call your at-