

The CHAIRMAN: Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. BUREAU: No.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I beg to move: that the further consideration of this section be postponed. We will proceed to the consideration of the next section.

Motion agreed to.

On section 21—Agreements with other lines:

Mr. ROBB: Mr. Chairman, this evening the leader of the Opposition stated that he and the Acting Prime Minister had reached an understanding that the House would adjourn each night at 11 o'clock. It is now 1 o'clock Saturday morning, and I think hon. gentlemen opposite will admit that we on this side have not taken up any more time than hon. gentlemen supporting the Government. Any information that we have had regarding the contentious

1 a.m. clause has been given to us, not by the ministers, but by their supporters, and I appeal to whoever is leading the House to live up to the promise made by their own leader, the Acting Prime Minister, and now adjourn.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 21 carry?

Mr. CAHILL: Will the minister not explain this section?

Mr. MEIGHEN: This section has necessarily been explained during the discussion on the various other sections. It provides for the amalgamation that the leader of the Opposition is so anxious for. Sections 361 and 364 of the Railway Act, referred to in section 21, provide for the amalgamation of one road with another, and this section makes those clauses applicable, subject to the conditions mentioned. It enables the amalgamation of the roads now comprised in the system and mentioned in the schedule, or that hereafter are entrusted to the management of the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. ROBB: I am not going to allow the minister who is leading the House to get away from my question whether the arrangement made between the Acting Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition is to be lived up to.

Mr. J. D. REID: I know of no arrangement of that kind. At all events, surely it is not unfair to ask that in one day we pass one clause out of thirty. The leader of the Opposition has absolutely refused to pass this clause.

Mr. McKENZIE: Not this clause.

Mr. J. D. REID: I know of no such agreement, nor has the Acting Prime Minister stated that there was such an agreement. Under the circumstances, I think we should proceed.

Mr. BUREAU: Section 361 of the Railway Act provides that the agreement of amalgamation shall be submitted to the Board of Railway Commissioners with an application for a recommendation to the Governor in Council for the sanction thereof, and that notice of the proposed application for such recommendation shall be published in the Canada Gazette. Section 21 of this Bill does away with all that, and all that is necessary is the approval of the Governor in Council?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Mr. BUREAU: Why should the matter not be made public as provided by section 361 in the case of private companies?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The amalgamation of lines comprised in this system, not of any outside lines, is what is provided for. The only reason for submission to the Railway Commission is in case there should be outside interests. There could be no such outside interest in this case, because the lines are comprised in our system.

Mr. McKENZIE: Is the leader of the Government willing to adjourn if we accept section 21?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Not at all, section 20 is not through.

Mr. McKENZIE: There is a motion to let it stand.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We were compelled to make it. No thanks are due to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am looking for an adjournment, not for thanks.

Mr. CAHILL: Surely the minister will read to the Committee the section of the Act that I asked him to read. This clause refers to some other Act that we have not under our hand. If the minister would let us adjourn for an hour or two we could go to the library and look it up. The minister said to-day that the forty-four charters that he wants to put into section 20 constitute only a fraction of the total number of companies. This section will give the Governor in Council power to take over any roads that are within the so-called Canadian Northern system. That might include some branch lines that are heavily encumbered and that