

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
TUESDAY, March 15, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce met at 10.30 o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we seem to have a quorum; we shall proceed with the inquiry into the price of gasoline to the Canadian consumer.

I have been receiving a number of letters and telegrams, and I have handed those to the clerk. I would suggest, with your permission, that these be reviewed by the sub-committee. With your permission I will ask those who receive communications with respect to local situations, to pass them to the clerk of the Committee, and they will receive attention in the way I have suggested.

Mr. HANSON: It is quite obvious that we cannot investigate local situations here, except incidentally. I think Dr. Donnelly has outlined in a general way what the Committee should do.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the best way to proceed is to ask the companies to give what information they have, and answer what questions we ask, first in regard to costs of production. Having taken that up, which we are doing to-day, and having exhausted that subject, we shall proceed to costs of distribution. It seems to me that that is the fair way to proceed, and therefore I have asked the McColl-Frontenac Company to appear to-day on the question of costs. I hope we will get through with that question to-day, and then for Thursday I have summoned the Imperial Oil to give us the cost of operations. Following that I would suggest that we ask the British American to come and give us their version of the costs, if that meets with your approval. I shall now ask the McColl-Frontenac witness to give his evidence, but before calling on him, I am going to introduce Mr. Irwin to the Committee. Mr. Irwin is the president of the McColl-Frontenac Company, and he will say a word or two to the Committee before Mr. Brooks gives his evidence.

Mr. IRWIN, President, McColl-Frontenac: Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, unfortunately I have developed a very bad cold which has developed into laryngitis, for which I am very sorry, because I desired to be the chief witness here this morning. However, Mr. Brooks, who is comptroller of our company and is familiar with all the operations of it, was brought along by me, and I shall ask him to deputize for me. I could only speak for a very short time before my voice would fail.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brooks.

Mr. LESLIE ARTHUR BROOKS, called and sworn.

By the Chairman:

Q. Mr. Brooks, have you any cost sheets or other documents pertaining to the matters before the Committee?

By Mr. Hanson:

Q. Just before you answer that question—what is your position with the company; what are your duties?—A. I am the comptroller of the company.