

THE SENATE

Thursday, October 18, 1962

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

PRIVATE BILL

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY—
AUTHORITY TO PRINT COMMITTEE
PROCEEDINGS

Hon. A. K. Hugessen, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, presented the following report of the committee on Bill S-4, respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company;

Your committee recommend that authority be granted for the printing of 800 copies in English and 200 copies in French of their proceedings on the said bill.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: I move, with leave, that the report be adopted now.

Report adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Hugessen reported that the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications had considered Bill S-4, respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and had directed that the bill be reported without amendment.

Report adopted.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I do not usually ask for favours, but sometimes I am more or less compelled to do so. There is some urgency about this measure in view of the fact that upon its passage through Parliament the Canadian Pacific Railway Company wishes to construct the line this fall, in order to be in a position to transport the potash that is now being manufactured at the plant. We had a very satisfactory meeting of the Transport and Communications Committee this morning on this bill, and I hope that the chairman will say something about it.

My purpose in rising now is to ask leave of the Senate to move that this bill be given third reading today. If it is not read the third

time today it will have to go over until Tuesday night, and will not be dealt with in the other place much before the end of next week.

I move with leave, seconded by Honourable Senator Hnatyshyn, that the bill be read a third time now.

Hon. Mr. Hugessen: Honourable senators, as the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has just mentioned, we had a very satisfactory meeting of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications this morning, and a most interesting discussion with respect to this bill.

In form, this is a very simple bill, providing for the building by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company of a short branch line in the province of Saskatchewan to a point about 15 miles to the southeast of the village of Bredenbury, which is on the C.P.R.'s line between Winnipeg and Saskatoon, to service the plant recently constructed by International Minerals and Chemical Corporation to recover potash from that area. The total cost of the line is estimated at about \$600,000.

As I have said, this plant is situated about 15 miles away from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's line. The question was raised in committee as to why this line was necessary, inasmuch as the area is already served by quite a short branch from the main line of the Canadian National Railways between Winnipeg and Saskatoon. The committee was quite satisfied, I think, as to the desirability of building this second line, not only because it will serve a very large industry on which \$40 million has been spent, but for another reason relating to the particular product it is going to transport.

Potash, apparently, has to be shipped in special cars called "covered hopper cars". It is expected that, when the plant is in full production, over one million tons of potash will be shipped from the plant each year.

We were told that neither of the two railway companies has enough of these covered hopper cars to meet the demands of the industry. In other words, it will need not only all the covered hopper cars both railways can supply, but the company will also have to hire privately an additional supply of these cars. That strikes me as being a good reason why a Canadian Pacific line should be built there, in addition to the Canadian National line which is there already.

We were told a most fascinating story about this potash discovery in the province of Saskatchewan. Apparently there is a bed of potash extending over an area of two to three hundred miles through the middle of Saskatchewan, sufficient to supply world demands for potash for the next 200 years.