

*Railway Act*

**Mr. Johnston:** I might point out that maritime interests were at stake as well, and Alberta voted to assist the maritime provinces in retaining their freight rate structure.

**Mr. Brooks:** We greatly appreciated that fact. So did British Columbia, Saskatchewan and every other province in Canada.

**Mr. Fair:** Kiss and make up.

**Mr. Johnston:** They went on to argue that we should not insert in this bill anything about the one and one-third rule. That was not what we were arguing at all. I wonder if you will vote—I hope you will and I think you should—when this bill comes up to support section 332B, which gives us the one and one-third rule.

**Mr. Brooks:** Wait and see before you condemn us.

**Mr. Johnston:** I hope you do not get kicked out of the party when you do that.

No, Mr. Chairman, this is no laughing matter to us. We have had to make a great fight in the province of Alberta to get any advance in our industrial progress. We have only been able to do it through mighty hard work in the last several years. Now we want to take advantage of this provision; and as far as we are concerned, we are not going to let anybody stand in our road. We intend to get at least a little bit of relief from this unjust discrimination that we have had to put up with so long. It makes me angry, Mr. Chairman, to have people get up in this chamber and say: "You do not want to take this thing too seriously, because it is only a few items that it affects anyway; this one and one-third rule affects only ten or fifteen items which concern you. You fellows in Alberta had better be careful or you will be worse off than you ever were before". When I hear that sort of thing coming from certain sources I take it with a grain of salt because we are still in the difficulty that we have been in for the last forty years. It is an amazing thing when you have people get up and tell you that in this chamber, when the royal commission found that this gross and unjust discrimination existed and brought in recommendations to relieve it to some extent. The government has brought down a bill which will to a degree relieve it. The Canadian National Railways say this bill in principle is good. There is no difficulty in applying the principles involved in the legislation. The only two who are objecting to it are British Columbia and the C.P.R. railway.

**Mr. Green:** And Manitoba.

**Mr. Johnston:** Manitoba to a degree. But I would point out that they are not so outspoken in this regard as my friend the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra.

**Mr. Ferguson:** I thought you said the Conservative party objected to it. Now you have changed your mind. You are forgiven.

**Mr. Johnston:** No. Do not make any mistake about it. I have not changed my mind about the Conservative party.

**Mr. Ferguson:** We forgive you. You have apologized.

**Mr. Johnston:** I have not changed my mind.

**Mr. Ferguson:** Do not apologize any more. You are forgiven. You made a mistake. We all make mistakes.

**Mr. Johnston:** We will be able to count the noses when the vote is taken.

**An hon. Member:** Keep on talking.

**Mr. Johnston:** The point is that this is no joke for us, Mr. Chairman. It is a matter of our existence, of our prosperity. We want to compliment the government again for taking this forward step. It is the only one that I can recall they have taken, but I think they deserve praise in this one instance. I can assure them that we agree with the principles of the bill. We are going to support it in its entirety, although we want it clearly understood that this does not remove the discrimination. It lessens it, however. It does not bring equality in freight rates throughout Canada.

It is an amazing thing, Mr. Chairman, to hear these people talk about removing this one and one-third rule because it is going to injure them a little bit. In the United States the intermediate points have the same rates as does their coast. Yet we in Alberta, even if this bill is passed, will have to pay one-third more. There is a reason why in the central United States you have industrial growth and expansion far beyond that which we have in Canada; and that is the reason. From a national point of view I think these Conservatives—should I call them that?—should have a broader and more national outlook on this bill and should support it so that it may pass this house unanimously.

**Mr. Harkness:** Mr. Chairman, I must thank the hon. gentlemen immediately on my right; it is seldom that I have heard them applaud when I rise to speak. I had not intended to take any part in this debate at this time, but somehow I think the remarks just made by the hon. member for Bow River make it necessary that I should say a word or two. The hon. member has sought to convey the