

Mr. MEIGHEN: No money of this country can be used unless it is voted by Parliament. That is the law of the land.

Mr. LEMIEUX: But you give the railway company here the right to acquire with the approval of the Governor in Council.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Certainly.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Suppose, for instance, they find it convenient to acquire the Gaspé railways, and suppose they have a surplus to apply towards that purchase, surely they could not come before Parliament for the purpose? Cannot you in a line just preserve the powers of Parliament? Because here the language is very broad. I can quite understand that if it was a small line serving a particular industry the board might find it convenient to acquire it; that goes without saying, but according to this section they may acquire a railway line of one or two hundred miles, which would involve a large expenditure of money.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Any surplus from the Government lines they cannot use because that goes to the credit of the Receiver General by another clause. All I said was, if it was a surplus from the Canadian Northern system there is no reason why they should not have the same powers as any other company, subject, of course, to the control of the Governor in Council as given here. I suggest that if the hon. gentleman feels so strongly about it, consideration of this clause might be postponed.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I do not ask that. You may add two or three words.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We could consider the hon. gentleman's suggestion between now and Monday, and if deemed feasible an amendment could be made accordingly on Monday.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Very well. Will you tell me if the company can acquire any transportation, navigation, etc., company outside of the Canadian Northern constituent company and subsidiary companies?

Mr. MEIGHEN: They might acquire the stock of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine Limited. That is one instance where this power might well be used.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: The clause is wide enough to enable the company to purchase the Grand Trunk Railway System.

Mr. BUREAU: Will the amendment of the Acting Minister of Justice be presented for further consideration?

[Mr. Lemieux.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: I move to strike out the words "and dispose of" at the end of the second line of section 29.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will my hon. friend consider the line dropped?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am moving postponement of this clause, and in doing so would state between now and Monday consideration will be given to the hon. gentleman's suggestion.

Motion agreed to.

On section 30—consent of municipalities:

Mr. BUREAU: If an agreement cannot be arrived at between the company and the municipality, will they go before the Railway Commission as is provided by the general Railway Act?

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is a standard clause.

Mr. BUREAU: Who has the authority to decide in case they cannot reach an agreement?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Railway Act would then apply.

Section agreed to.

Mr. McKENZIE: I move that the following be added to the Bill as Section 31:

Every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers or promises any office, place or employment, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment to or for any voter, director, official or employee of the company, and any director, official or other employee of the company who seeks by bribe or otherwise to influence any other director, official or employee with a view to influence him or them to support a political party in Canada, shall be disqualified from further holding office in the said company, and shall be liable upon prosecution to a term of imprisonment not less than one year, and not exceeding five years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I move that the consideration of the proposed section 31 be postponed.

Motion (Mr. Meighen) agreed to.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I move that the following be added as section 32 of the Bill:

The Minister of Railways and Canals may appoint or direct any person to inquire into and report upon any matters or things relating to or affecting the company or its works and undertakings, including its management and operation of the Government railways, or relating to or affecting any other company and the works and undertakings thereof, owned, controlled or operated by the company, and any