

INTERIM REPORT

The Right Honourable Senator Graham, from the Special Committee appointed to inquire into and report upon the best means of relieving the country from its extremely serious railway condition and financial burden consequent thereto, presented the following Report.

The same was then read by the Clerk, as follows:—

Thursday, 30th June, 1938.

The Special Committee of the Senate which was appointed to “inquire into and report upon the best means of relieving the country from its extremely serious railway condition and financial burden consequent thereto,” begs leave to report as follows:—

1. The Committee has held 43 sessions, has examined 31 of the principal officers of the two railway systems, and has had lodged with it no less than 97 exhibits, many of them voluminous in content and technical in character and detail. The Committee has also heard evidence in extensive detail from representatives of the Dominion Joint Legislative Committee of the Railway Transportation Brotherhoods, with which was associated the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, also from the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees. The recorded proceedings of the Committee cover 1284 printed pages.

2. The evidence before the Committee was not completed until very shortly before Prorogation and consequently the Committee has been unable, through lack of time, to analyse the vast mass of material before it in such manner as to enable it to present a report either satisfactory to itself or valuable to the public. The proceedings before the Committee and the publicity given thereto must have contributed greatly to the information of all interested and should be of inestimable value in the further consideration of the problem by the government and people of this country.

3. Having regard to the desirability of completing the inquiry, and to the preservation of the value of the examination already made, and the preparation of an adequate report thereon, the Committee recommends that it be reappointed early in the next session of Parliament. The intention is that a thorough review shall be made of all evidence and other material already at the disposal of the Committee, and a report thereon presented to Parliament.

4. The Committee may deem it advisable, when later convened, to obtain further data bearing upon the general problem and its possible solution.

5. In the meantime, the Committee would request the two railway companies to renew and speed up their efforts to effect by co-operation reductions of operating expenditures by every means at their command, and within the authority of the present law.

6. In conclusion, the Committee desires to express its appreciation of the services of Colonel O. M. Biggar, K.C., the Committee's Counsel, whose assistance in facilitating the work of the Committee was invaluable. The services of joint secretaries and reporters have also been of the highest character.

GEO. P. GRAHAM,

C. P. BEAUBIEN,

Joint Chairmen.

With leave of the Senate,

The said Report was adopted.