

mayors and the wardens of the area, who have confirmed that this will be a psychological blow to the confidence of people in the area. It will also be a blow to Pictou County and the Antigonish areas. There is no question about it.

If we go back over the years and consider the reasons for a national rail line, particularly those parts of the national rail line in the Atlantic provinces, we see that they were not set up for profit. They were set up as tools for economic development for this country. They were specifically set up in the Atlantic region as a tool for economic development. That was recognized for many, many years.

Perhaps Senator Stewart remembers the name of a commission back in the 1920s that looked into this matter. I should remember the name because I researched it myself. However, there is no question that the findings of that commission report were that the old Intercolonial railroad was set up as a tool for economic development, and any deficiency in terms of the cost of transportation of goods would be borne by the Dominion. Those words were practically set in stone at the time.

There is no question in my mind what should be done now. The proposed sale of this section of the railroad should be abandoned by CN. There should be no talk of it. Perhaps at some time in the future, when the economy is better, when new industries are starting and industry is thriving, CN can look into the matter again. But right now, in an economic and psychological sense, it is the wrong time to do it. Such a move will not encourage new investment, and could hasten investment coming out of the area.

I congratulate Senator Graham, and I support his motion.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator MacDonald: I just want to say to Senator Stewart that I take his point and we will look into it.

I have to say that I disagree with Senator Buchanan. If I were not so optimistic about the future of this line under private hands, I do not think I would be anxious to take on this inquiry. This is not a precursor to abandonment. It spells a whole new life for this line. Indeed, the sale of the line may take place before we have a chance to have committee hearings. Therefore, we have to apply ourselves to a whole new dimension and a whole new set of circumstances.

Senator Graham: Honourable senators—

The Hon. the Speaker: If Senator Graham speaks now, his speech will have the effect of closing the debate.

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, I have just a few words to say.

I should point out that if Senator MacDonald spent his fourth, fifth and sixth birthdays on the train, that was in 1927,

1928 and 1929. He was obviously travelling with his father, to and from Ottawa. His father was the distinguished Member of Parliament for Cape Breton South between 1925 and 1935.

When Senator MacDonald was sworn into the Senate, he had a dinner party that evening. He was kind enough to invite me as one of his guests. Senator MacDonald's younger brother, Dr. Cameron MacDonald, was in attendance, and he reminisced about their long-lost youth. He told the story about when they were in the backyard playing together, very close to their father's big car, a Hup mobile. Cameron told us about Finlay taking a hammer in his hands and driving a big spike right through one of the tires.

Hon. Senators: Shame, shame!

Senator Graham: They heard their father coming around the corner, and Finlay handed the hammer over, putting it right into Dr. Cameron's hand.

I thought of that story when Senator MacDonald was speaking on this motion and when he referred to one of the potential buyers, Rail Tex Corporation of San Antonio, Texas. When he was eulogizing the chairman of that corporation, he talked about him receiving the Golden Spike Award!

I thank Senator MacDonald and other honourable senators for their cooperation. I congratulate Senator MacDonald as chairman of the committee for continuing to hold the hammer in his hand.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORIZED TO MAKE STUDY

Hon. Noel A. Kinsella, moved, pursuant to notice of Tuesday, December 10, 1991:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be authorized to examine and report upon the concept, development and promotion of Canadian citizenship; and

That the Committee present its final report no later than December 31, 1991.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.