

Mr. EMMERSON. I can say that there were applications for new subsidies, but my memory is not sufficiently good to enumerate them all.

Mr. SPROULE. Another thing we would like to know is the number of times they have applied for a renewal of these subsidies, whether one or more times, also, would he give us the number of times they have been renewed?

Mr. EMMERSON. When we are dealing with them in detail, I will furnish the information.

Mr. SPROULE. It would be better to give it now so that we could have it all in the one place.

Mr. EMMERSON. I would have to go over every one of my briefs with respect to each line of railway, and it would tax me unnecessarily.

Mr. TISDALE. I would suggest that the minister gives the dates of the charter, and the dates of renewals.

Motion agreed to, and House went into committee on the resolutions.

On section 1,

1. That it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to grant a subsidy of \$3,200 per mile towards the construction of each of the undermentioned lines of railway (not exceeding in any one case the number of miles hereinafter respectively stated) which shall not cost more on the average than \$15,000 per mile for the mileage subsidized, and towards the construction of each of the said lines of railway not exceeding the mileage hereinafter stated, which shall cost more on the average than \$15,000 per mile for the mileage subsidized, a further subsidy beyond the sum of \$3,200 per mile of fifty per cent on so much of the average cost of the mileage subsidized as is in excess of \$15,000 per mile, such subsidy not exceeding in the whole the sum of \$6,400 per mile.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would the minister give us in each case the date on which the subsidy was first voted; the reason why it has not yet been availed of, and what assurance has the government that it will be made use of now.

Mr. TISDALE. And how often the charter of the company has been renewed, and how many times in each case the subsidy has been voted?

Mr. EMMERSON. I am not in a position to give information now with regard to the granting of the charter, but I have sent to the department for it. On the table of the House will be found a map showing these several lines of railway.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Some years ago when the government increased the bonuses to railways it was understood that this bonus should be in some way treated as a loan. Is that policy still in force and if so what interest has been collected under

it from the railways? If the railways have not paid that interest annually is it carried forward as a charge against them?

Mr. EMMERSON. The legislation referred to by my hon. friend will be found in clause 6 of the resolution which reads:

6. That every company so receiving a subsidy, its successors and assigns, and any person or company controlling or operating the railway or portion of railway so subsidized, shall each year furnish to the government of Canada, transportation for men, supplies, materials and mails, over the portion of the lines in respect of which it has received such subsidy, and, whenever required, shall furnish mail cars properly equipped for such mail service; and such transportation and service shall be performed at such rates as are agreed upon between the minister of the department of the government for which such service is being performed, and the company performing it, and, in case of disagreement, then at such rates as are approved by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada; and in or towards payment for such charges the government of Canada shall be credited by the company with a sum equal to three per cent per annum on the amount of the subsidy so received by the company.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. I have never yet heard a Minister of Railways make a statement to the House as to what amount has been paid by the railways on this account or, as to what has been charged against them for neglect to pay. When Mr. Blair was the minister he told us that if the railways did not do work for the government sufficient to pay the interest in a particular year, it was written off and not carried forward as a charge against the companies. Is that still the policy of the government? What has each company paid in the way of interest and what work has each company done for the government?

Mr. EMMERSON. I cannot now give the information asked for further than to say that the custom of the department is being continued.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Do I understand you cannot give us any information about this matter?

Mr. EMMERSON. I was not aware that it would be asked for but I can get it later.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. The country is entitled to this information.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Does the minister know that any troops have been transported under this agreement in the past?

Mr. EMMERSON. I have not it in mind.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Did you ever hear of it?

Mr. EMMERSON. I should think most of the troops carried would be carried on lines of railway that do not come under this provision.