

\$50 to \$500 per annum, with the additional charge of the amounts that I have just cited on the catch of fish. This matter was taken up fully with the canners who, along with the members of Parliament from British Columbia, agreed to it unanimously.

Mr. McKENZIE: A moment ago, the minister moved that Bill No. 31, to amend the Meat and Canned Foods Act, be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries. Does he intend to refer this Bill also?

Mr. BALLANTYNE: That was my intention.

Mr. McKENZIE: It has been reported to me from British Columbia that this high license fee will have the effect of driving the ordinary canner out of business altogether, and that the purpose of raising it from \$50 to \$500 is to create a monopoly in the fishery canning business in that province. It has been represented to me that the ordinary man doing a small business in canning salmon and possibly other fish in British Columbia cannot afford to pay this high fee, and consequently will be driven out of the trade.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the minister, so that it can be dealt with before the committee is this: It is stated that those who practically control the fisheries of British Columbia do not pay the ordinary white man in that province a white man's wage, and that in consequence practically every white man in British Columbia has left that business, and to-day the fisheries there are entirely in the hands of Japanese and Chinamen—in the hands of the Japanese, at all events; I cannot say how far that applies to Chinamen. This situation has been brought about by the fisheries of British Columbia being practically in the hands of a monopoly. If these are the conditions, I am sure the minister would like to see them remedied, and if the purpose of raising the license fee is to give further powers to those who have too much power already, it will be advisable for the committee to consider the matter very carefully, in order that everybody in British Columbia may have the privilege of going into the fishery business if he so desires.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: How many licenses are issued under the existing law?

Mr. BALLANTYNE: I cannot say off-hand, but I will in committee give the information to my hon. friend.

[Mr. Ballantyne.]

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

On motion of Mr. Ballantyne, the Bill was referred to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries.

FISH INSPECTION ACT.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ballantyne (Minister of Marine and Fisheries) Bill No. 41, to amend the Fish Inspection Act, was read the second time and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Marine and Fisheries.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved the third reading of Bill No. 70, to incorporate Canadian National Railway Company and respecting Canadian National Railways.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Shelburne and Queen's): I had hoped that before we reached this the final stage of the Bill the Government would have seen their way clear to make such an amendment as would bring it into conformity with what to my mind are the very first principles of our parliamentary system of government. I regret that they have not been able to do so. I think their departure from what I regard as the sound principles of parliamentary finance is too grave a matter to be passed over lightly. I think we should have a further consideration of the subject; at all events, that we should have a deliberate and recorded vote of the House upon it.

This Bill proposes to apply to one of the largest portions of the public business certain rules and principles which are at variance, I think, with the established principles of our parliamentary system, and entirely at variance with the rules and principles which are applied to all other branches of our public service. A cardinal principle of our parliamentary system is that Parliament, and especially the House of Commons, shall retain full and unrestricted control over the appropriation of public money. That is a principle which applies under all British legislative systems; it is a principle which applies in Canada to-day; it is a principle which will apply after this Bill shall pass, if it is to pass, to all the other departments of public business in Canada. But for some strange reason, it is not to apply to the operation of this railway company.