

Canadian National or the Canadian Pacific thought that there should be a French-speaking Canadian on the board? Among the names of the people suggested to manage the company, I know there are people who have been suggested to manage the company. In that case we could withdraw the motion.

(Text)

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I would just say to that, Mr. Beaulé, that the organization of this company has not even begun. We have not the charter for the company to start with. Once this charter is passed, there is a great deal of work that has to be done. It may well be that many men may be proposed as directors of the company, I do not know. Incidentally, I have nothing to do with the appointment of directors, and I do not even know how it is done. It could quite possibly be that lots of names would be suggested from various sources, or there could be no names suggested. We have not reached the stage where any director has been chosen. It is open to anybody to make any suggestions they want to make. From where I sit in the C.N.R. it seems to me we do get many suggestions, and many of them are quite good. I believe they are acted upon.

(Translation)

Mr. BEAULÉ: Mr. Chairman, I think it is a drastic way to compel a company to put some man on the board. If the committee agrees and recommends that there should be French-speaking Canadians on the board I am prepared to withdraw my name as seconder of the motion. If the committee is prepared to recommend that there should be French-speaking Canadians on the board and the matter is given careful consideration.

(Text)

Mr. FISHER: I just want to ask Mr. Macdougall one question. Would it be right to assume that half the directors would be suggested by the Canadian National Railways and half by the Canadian Pacific Railway?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I would think that probably would be what would happen.

Mr. FISHER: I just want to make the point that there may be some efficacy in the proposal in that it seems to me this would be the first time that we would have an opportunity to hear a response from Canadian Pacific.

My second point—and I am not making this facetiously or in humour—is that both these railways are carrying out large scale training of their senior executives in the French language, according to their public relations. From this point of view I do not foresee there would be any great difficulties. It seems to me the requirement would be an incentive, and therefore I will support the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, there has been a suggestion from Mr. Beaulé. Perhaps you did not grasp it. He suggested that he would be content to withdraw as seconder to Mr. Caron's motion if the committee were willing to express to the railways their desire and their wish to appoint at least two French-speaking directors. This would give an opportunity to the committee at a later date in the spring to find out to what extent the railways have responded to this wish.

Mr. FISHER: At that meeting later in the spring we will only be able to question Mr. Gordon. We will not be able to question Mr. Emerson.