

yer and asked his advice in the matter, he would probably say, "Go and sue the Government at once, and have the matter settled."

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: If he had a good fee he would.

Section 6 was agreed to.

Sections 7 to 15, inclusive, were agreed to.

The preamble and the title were agreed to.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

THIRD READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

Bill 217, an Act to amend the Railway Act, 1919.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE AND REPORTED.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Daniel in the Chair.

On section 1—powers of Board of Railway Commissioners with respect to coal and other fuel supplies:

Hon. R. S. WHITE: Are the powers given to the Railway Board exercised over the Department of Marine, the Department of Labour, and the Department of Trade and Commerce, or what powers do they have?

Hon. G. D. ROBERTSON: The powers that the Railway Board may exercise under this Bill will be practically the same as those that were conferred upon the Fuel Controller during the war under the War Measures Act. It is intended that the Board shall have general jurisdiction over and assist in the obtaining of coal necessary to meet our requirements, and the transportation and distribution of it.

Hon. R. S. WHITE: If they find, for instance, that the production of coal is not sufficient, can they call on the Labour Department to increase that output, or not? Have they any power over the Labour Department, or any instructions about it?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I do not assume that the Board of Railway Commissioners would have any more power in that direction than the Fuel Controller had. They

would simply make the necessary representation as to what, in their opinion, ought to be done, and the Departments would have some power to exercise in that direction. At the present time the fuel situation is indeed serious in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. During the first part of this year the importations exceeded those for the first five months of last year; but, owing to transportation difficulties in the United States, and the scarcity of coal, that is, the demand not being met even in their own country, drastic steps have been taken over there to control the situation; and the Interstate Commerce Commission has been placed in control of the coal situation under much the same powers as Mr. Garfield exercised as Fuel Controller during the war. Embargoes have been placed on the exportation of coal overseas. It is obvious that some control must be maintained over coal in Canada, and as it has been thought wise by the United States to suggest that coal should not be exported to Europe, we would expect that country to supply coal here. Therefore some body must have power in Canada to exercise such control as was exercised by the coal director under the War Measures Act; and inasmuch as the Railway Board are in direct touch with and control transportation movements, it is felt that they are the logical body in whom to vest this power.

Hon. Mr. WHITE: Would they have any power over the ships owned by the Canadian Government if they wanted tonnage?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I would assume that they would represent to the Minister of Marine what was required in the way of ships. I would not assume that they had any commandeering power under this Bill.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Suppose the production of coal in Nova Scotia had fallen off, would they have power to take drastic measures to increase that production?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: They have power to take control of a mine and operate it, if necessary.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: This Board of Railway Commissioners would have that power?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The Bill says:

The Board shall have power to do and authorize such acts and things and to make from time to time such orders and regulations as the Board, by reason of real or apprehended scarcity of coal or other fuel supplies in Canada, may deem necessary or advisable for the provision of such supplies and for the distribution, control and disposition thereof.