

Mr. KINLEY: Would it not be fair to assume that last year was a special year? Take another year. Is it higher than two years ago?

Hon. Mr. HOWE: We picked up the arrears last year. This year it will be normal maintenance, I think; last year we picked up a lot of arrears.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions with regard to this statement? If not we will pass on to the next, dealing with capital expenditures and the acquisition of securities. Have you any questions to ask in regard to page 3?

Hon. Mr. STEWART: "Betterments to Equipment, \$2,675,617." How does that compare with last year?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: The figure was \$1,322,000 last year.

Mr. RYAN: I see reference here to the Fredericton Bridge, \$1,250,000. What will the total contract amount to?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: The contract has not been let.

Mr. RYAN: Will it soon be let?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: Possibly.

Mr. RYAN: I beg your pardon.

Mr. HUNGERFORD: I say possibly.

Mr. RYAN: Can you not give me anything more definite than that?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: It depends upon certain arrangements with the Canadian Pacific Railway. I am hopeful that we will reach a conclusion in our negotiations at an early date.

Mr. RYAN: I was under the impression that the negotiations had been concluded. Is that not correct?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: Not entirely.

Mr. RYAN: What is the estimated cost of the bridge?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: The bridge and approaches will cost about one and a quarter million dollars.

Mr. RYAN: Can you give me any idea as to when you definitely expect to call for tenders?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: We hope to do so in the near future. As a matter of fact, we have already called for tenders on the steel work.

Mr. RYAN: Have you started the dismantling?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: Not for the substructure.

Mr. RYAN: I presume you appreciate the urgency in this matter?

Mr. HUNGERFORD: Oh, yes, very much so.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions we will pass on to page 4.

Hon. Mr. HOWE: The explanation of the amount in the capital budget is that part of the cost has to come out of operating, due to the fact that it is replacing an existing facility.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Page 4, estimated capital expenditures, acquisition of securities. Are there any questions in regard to these new equipment purchases?

Mr. HANSON: What is the total number of cars owned by the Canadian National Railway. I see that there are over 3,000 new ones to be built. Have you got that figure?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: Freight equipment at the end of the year, 95,993.

Mr. HANSON. Passenger?

Mr. ARMSTRONG: 3,022, and 5,852 work equipment. That is given in the annual report at page 27.