

Q. How many on the staff of the compartment cars?—A. They would work three or four men, according to the volume of the mail.

Q. You do not know exactly?—A. No, there are some which run with one, and others with two, three or four.

Q. Speaking of the 40 cent units and the 35 cent unit: you do not take into your equation the number of railway mail clerks on the pay-rolls?—A. No.

Q. Then it would be necessary for us also to consider the number of clerks on the pay-roll?—A. By reducing the units and the volume of mail on the Canadian Pacific, it would reduce the number of postal clerks, but it would switch these to the Canadian National.

Q. You would have half the number of railway mail clerks on the 20 cent unit than on the 35?—A. Yes.

Q. I understood you would have three or four in the one case, and seven or eight in the other?—A. It all depends on the volume of mail. I know a number of compartment-car runs where they are working with two.

Q. You have not taken that into your calculation?—A. No. I think that is a detail which can be worked out very easily by the Post Office Department.

Q. Have you any evidence from the Post Office Department that you can submit to us?—A. No, I have nothing.

Q. You have no word about those suggested changes from the Post Office Department?—A. No. I do not think it would cost them anything in the matter of clerks. This is a suggestion of my own, but I think if this Committee would recommend the split to be made in this service, to give the Canadian National Railway a greater proportion of revenue, and give the public a better service the detail of expenses would be checked up by the Post Office Department. It would have to go to the Cabinet for an Order in Council before the change would be made, and the expense would be checked up prior to the Order in Council being issued. That would be gone into very carefully, and in the case of any disputed item we would have to sit in and see what we could work out.

Q. I understand your service will be ready by August 1st?—A. Yes, about that.

Q. Is it the desire of your company that this Committee should take this seriously into consideration at this time, or wait until you are ready?—A. It is certainly our desire that this be taken into consideration now, because it is a thing that requires considerable work in advance before the Post Office Department could make the switch. They could hardly make the switch before August 1st.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. That is what you are here for, to press the matter?—A. Yes.

HON. MR. GRAHAM: As a matter of fact, to my mind this Committee could not make any recommendation any further than that the matter be investigated, because it might entail the expenditure of a considerable amount of money. It is a pretty big problem, and is really a matter for the Canadian National Railways to state their position for the consideration of the Post Office Department and the Government, because this is really a Post Office matter.

MR. HARRIS: I appreciate that

HON. MR. GRAHAM: If we could get the representations of the Canadian National Railway—

THE CHAIRMAN: It is undoubtedly important for the Railway.

HON. MR. GRAHAM: So it is. I do not think it will be wise to make a recommendation until the Post Office Department were to take it up.