

Legislation; Railway Act amendment

7. The Minister of Transport stated it would be desirable to modify the present bill to amend the Railway Act in order to insert provisions respecting the position of the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Transport Commissioners.

As the Railway Act now stood, it provided that the Chief Commissioner had to be chosen from among the judges of the Exchequer Court and that the Chief Commissionership be combined with a judgeship on the Exchequer Court. It seemed desirable to return to the provision of 1927 which enabled judges of a superior court of Canada or of any province, or barristers with ten years' standing, to be appointed as Chief Commissioner. Incidental provisions would be required also on salary, pension rights and reappointment. It might also be desirable to provide that a Chief Commissioner whose term ended before he reached age seventy-five, should become a supernumerary Judge of the Exchequer Court.

8. The Cabinet noted the report of the Minister of Transport concerning the office of Chief Commissioner of the Board of Transport Commissioners and agreed that a draft of proposed provisions thereon to be included in the bill to amend the Railway Act be prepared for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

St. Lawrence waterway; legislation; announcement

9. The Minister of Transport said that further consideration had been given to legislation to be introduced in connection with the St. Lawrence waterway development. One possibility was to have a single piece of legislation at the present time to establish the agency to handle the St. Lawrence project. The other was to introduce two bills, one establishing the agency and the other authorizing the conclusion of an agreement with Ontario. On the whole it appeared best to have two bills.

10. The Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out that, in view of the adjournment of Congress without action on the St. Lawrence agreement, it was clear that there could be no implementation of the international plan at an early date. It would be desirable, accordingly, to have an approach made to the U.S. authorities asking for co-operation

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