

Mr. FLEMING: There is so much in Mr. Sellar's report that is bound to call for questions. I mean, he has made certain comments of a general nature in his report, and then he goes on to deal with a great many particular matters. When he comes before us as a witness we will be asking for information on specific matters. I quite appreciate the point raised by Mr. Maybank; obviously, we need to do whatever we can to get ahead with this work, to deal with specific matters as they arise and not get turned off on to some other subject.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fleming, may I make the suggestion that if we are going to get anywhere we must have order in the committee. The Auditor General in the public accounts has covered a vast volume of material, and I think if we are going to have orderly procedure in the committee we should first, as has been suggested, call Mr. Sellar to make a general statement on which he can be questioned; and then any further matters which concern Mr. Sellar may be brought in in such order as the agenda committee may decide as in the best interests of the committee. I am sure the committee do not want to lay themselves open for a general discussion of any item which may be brought before it. If we do that we may get off on this, that or the other subject. I think I have the support of the committee in suggesting that we must look to our agenda committee for direction in procedure. My thought this morning was that motions of the kind I have been receiving would be in order for reference to the agenda committee. Mr. Sellar can come before us as our first witness and give us a general survey of his work; and I presume, in the usual way, he will have a general memorandum to submit to the committee dealing with questions which he considers of particular importance and interest. After that, any other matters to be considered by the main committee will be taken up in the order recommended by the committee on agenda and procedure. I now propose to deal with Mr. Nicholson's motion.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I was just going to say you have cleared this up. You have pointed out that what we have before us this morning are suggestions as to matters to be considered. Then, too, you have made it clear that we are going to have Mr. Sellar before the committee. It seems to me that we are all in agreement on that point.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, is there any serious objection to this committee taking up Mr. Sellar's report to the House section by section?

The CHAIRMAN: I thought that first we would follow the procedure established in other committees of this kind; that it would be a benefit to the committee for Mr. Sellar to appear before us and deal with what he thinks is important and go on from subject to subject. And in doing that I think we would be within our powers to deal with Mr. Nicholson's motion as it relates to item 8 on page 4, a matter which would ordinarily come under the review of this committee. At the same time, we have so much work otherwise relating to public accounts that it is suggested that Mr. Nicholson might get quicker results if he were to bring his motion to the attention of the committee on Railways and Shipping which is sitting at the moment. I would also point out that his motion would involve an amendment to the Railway Act, because the audit procedure followed at the moment comes under the Railway Act. That is why I submit the committee on Railways and Shipping would be the proper medium before which he should bring that motion. I also make that suggestion because of the very great volume of other work which this committee now faces. While reference to the matter does not appear in the report of the Auditor General, in the public accounts, and therefore it can come before us, there is this other committee which will be sitting much less than we are.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I will be very glad to abide by the ruling of the agenda committee. I am sure that I would be out of order in suggesting that the audit matter be discussed in the committee on Railways and Shipping.