

that were involved, except for one route which might have been half a mile longer. In any event it would have been along the road allowance, which I understand is called a concession in this part of the country.

It is a shocking thing that this should happen in this country in this day and age when we are so proud and vocal about our freedom and the rights we enjoy. It makes me wonder whose freedom did I go to two wars to protect? Whose freedom was I looking after when I was 34 years in Canada's armed services? It now appears it was not worth a darn looking after the freedom of our private citizens or of land owners.

These people got a letter from the C.N.R. at the beginning of May informing them that their land was going to be expropriated, without any reference to their wishes at all. They were all busy putting in their crops. They could not leave their farming operations to attend to this business, so they hired the services of Farm Surface Rights Consultants Ltd. in Edmonton to look after their interests. The manager of that company appears to be working very hard. He is working on two other similar matters. One is a spur line in Saskatchewan where the people involved have experienced the same thing, and the other is a pipe line from the McMurray tar sands down to the storage place close to the railway.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member to advise him that the time allotted to him has expired.

Some hon. Members: Let him continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the house give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Fane: I would like to thank hon. members for their consideration in allowing me to complete my remarks. I have here an article which appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* on September 12 headed, "If You Think You Have Property Rights Try Dealing With The C.N.R." It was written by the wife of one land owner, one of the Lamoureux family whose ancestors first settled at Fort Saskatchewan about 100 years ago. Her husband is a fourth or fifth generation settler there. It reads:

During this centennial year we have heard many officials and dignitaries speak with great gusto on the traditional rights and freedoms enjoyed

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by the people of Canada. There have been long-winded dissertations on how these have been won by our forefathers.

● (5:30 p.m.)

I draw attention to one aspect of our legal structure where the theory of individual rights is flagrantly ignored. In actual fact, there are laws which are designed to allow individuals the least possible say in matters pertaining to their own property. The laws relating to the expropriation of property for the use of the railroads make a mockery of all those high-sounding speeches which I hear.

Yes, I am one of a group of farm men and women who have been trying to get fair treatment from the Canadian National Railways. The manner in which they take possession of property to build a spur has to be lived through to be believed. I'm talking of the one for the new Imperial Oil fertilizer plant near Redwater. We have been living in a fool's paradise, blissfully harbouring the illusion that we had some degree of control over our own land. How innocent can you be?

Here is our experience with railway building:

The official announcement of the fertilizer plant was in all the local newspapers earlier this year. On April 28, we received a letter from the C.N.R. telling, yes, telling us, that a certain part of our land was to be used for the railway right of way. This plan had been registered with the land titles office and was subject to the Expropriation Act, for the sake of expediency.

This railroad was to be in operation by September. No plant of this size comes into being without years of planning, nor the railway which is to service it. Yet we were given no warning nor consideration until April 28, and were expected to say nothing.

On May 4th their real estate agent arrived. My husband was not home so the agent came back at a later date. The agent was then told that all dealing would have to be done through Mr. R. A. Doyle of Farm Service Rights, who had been retained to help protect our interests.

On June 7th, we discovered that our three parcels of land registered in the land titles office had been affixed with the expropriation stamp on May 19th. Later the nine acres were officially registered in the name of the C.N.R., neatly bisecting our three parcels of land into six parcels.

This is nothing more than stealing or confiscation, and those are my own words. The letter then continues:

All this without our knowledge or consent! To our astonishment, we discovered that this could be done quite legally under the C. N. Act. The only thing that remained in any sort of doubt was the price to be paid.

Subsequent legal action resulted in a decision which prevented any obstruction to the building of the railway but allowed the claim for property damage to remain.

Basically what is happening is as follows:

(a) The railroad has the legal right to lay a line right across our property. We have no control, nor the right to disagree.

(b) One hundred and five acres of the finest agricultural land in Canada are being violated for this purpose.