

Mr. MEIGHEN: We have not come to it yet.

On section 13—annual returns:

Mr. MEIGHEN: We provide the forms there.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: I observe that you have not adopted the provision of the Ontario Act which requires a return as to the name of each shareholder of the company and the amount of the shares unpaid.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That was in originally but was struck out. It entailed a tremendous amount of work and is easily evaded. All the company has to do is to syndicate its shares in the name of a trustee. They will do that to avoid the trouble of making such a return.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: That has not been the experience in Ontario.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But you have not as large companies as we have here.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: We have some of the largest companies in Canada.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: Not incorporated under the Companies Act of Ontario?

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: Yes.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: Most of them have taken Dominion charters under this new Act.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: I suppose fifteen or twenty times a year my office writes down to the provincial secretary's office for the names of shareholders in different companies. That assists us in the way of executions and services. How are we to get that information if we cannot get it in that way? It is not a good reason to say that it is too much work for the company. It is a safeguard for the public, and we are legislating in the public interest.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Why should you know if I own a share in a company any more than you should know whether my wife had purchased a new hat during the last sixty days?

Mr. CARVELL: What the public is interested in is the company and not the men who happen to own the individual shares in the company. In New Brunswick the shares of a company are not taxable. If I own a dozen shares in a company I do not pay any taxes on them; the taxes are paid by the company itself. The public wants to know how much the company's assets and dividends are. If it be a public utility com-

pany it wants to know that it is not earning more money than it ought to earn, and we treat it as a corporation and not as a number of individuals.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: I was not referring to the question of taxation but to the question of executions and the recovery of debts from men who hold shares in companies. There is no way of ascertaining what they do hold except by an examination for discovery. There must be a very good reason for not requiring this information to be filed.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: With reference to local companies the reason is very clear, but with reference to a Dominion company there must be the greatest possible measure of protection not inconsistent with some reasonable measure of domestic secrecy in the transaction of its affairs. It will be observed that by section 106 we make provision for every matter of interest to the public with respect to the company itself. The point mentioned by my hon. friend from North Grey (Mr. Middlebro) is not one that the public has much concern in because if you have an execution against a man the chances are that he has no shares standing in his name. If there is an execution against him he is going to get rid of his shares.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: If he has any shares, under this Act he does not need to get rid of them. He may have a thousand shares in the company and he may not have half of them paid for. Unless I can find out what shares he has and what he has paid I do not know what interest he has in those shares. I cannot find out from the return how much is paid up or what interest he has in the shares of the company.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Can you not examine him?

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: That means commencing an action, and after the action is commenced you may find that only ten per cent has been paid on the shares. As it is now I write to the provincial secretary and he sends me all this information.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: With five thousand shareholders that would be a serious obligation on the company.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: No, they could have a printed list as in the case of the Canadian Pacific railway.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think the object is consistent at all. We should not say that a company should supply this information in order that a judgment credi-