

Mr. MEIGHEN: This House has review of the work of the enterprise of course. But correspondence in connection with the operation of the road between the board of directors and anybody concerned is not in the possession of the Government, and is not the same at all as correspondence between departments of Government and others, which, of course, must be brought down upon resolution of this House. It has not been the practice, nor do I know how we can have such a thing as independent non-political operation of the road if the correspondence of the Canadian National system is to be produced. It is impossible. You must choose between one way and the other

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (leader of the Opposition): Does my right hon. friend recognize no obligations, by virtue of these being government-owned railways, to produce any correspondence as distinct from correspondence of a privately-owned corporation? Is there no obligation on the Government to produce any correspondence relating to the Canadian National railways?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have answered that as fully as I can. The question is not removed from difficulty, I admit. The Government of the country is the owner of the stock of the road. But if any matter connected with operation is, by means of the production of correspondence, to be brought before this Parliament for review, that means direct political control of the road, and that we are determined to avoid.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS.

OPERATION—CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. GEORGE PARENT (Quebec West): May I ask the Minister of Railways if his department has anything to do with the cancellation of certain trains on the Canadian National railways?

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Railways and Canals): The Department of Railways and Canals has nothing whatever to do with the cancellation of trains or in fact with anything connected with the operation of the road.

Mr. PARENT: I wanted to find out from the minister, because on February 28 he answered that the Government had something to do with the cancellation of trains and was in possession—

Mr. SPEAKER: On the Orders of the Day there can be no cross-questioning of

[Mr. Fielding.]

ministers; any answer received must be accepted.

Mr. JACQUES BUREAU (Three Rivers): Are the Canadian National railways operated under the Canadian National Railways Act passed by this Parliament some years ago?

Hon. Mr. REID: No, Mr. Speaker, that Act has not yet been brought into force.

SUPPLY—RULE 17C

On the Order being called for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Rule 17c the mere calling of this order makes it necessary for the Speaker to leave the Chair without question put, but the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Reid) has intimated to me that he would prefer to make his railway statement with the Speaker in the Chair. I therefore submit the question to the House, as to whether he shall have unanimous consent for the purpose of making his statement, following which, and complying with the rule, I shall leave the Chair.

Mr. BUREAU: Is this a motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. It does not abrogate the rule in any way.

Mr. CRERAR: Is this a statement by the Minister of Railways preliminary to the introduction of his estimates?

Mr. REID (Grenville): This is my annual statement in connection with the National Railways showing the results of operation for the year 1920.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. minister should have leave to make his statement?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ANNUAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS

Hon. J. D. REID (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair and the House is in Committee of Supply, I wish to submit my annual statement in connection with the Canadian National railways. I wish to follow the usual custom and make a statement in connection with the operation of our Canadian government-owned and controlled railway systems for the year 1920. The statement I intend to submit is compiled from statistical information which I will