

order in council, the agreement should not be executed until such time as parliament has approved of it. In other words, the railway must not commit itself without the consent of parliament. Do I make myself clear?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, except as to his reference to this order in council. This order in council does dispose of a matter which never had been voted by parliament.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend misunderstands me. There should be no execution of the agreement, as there was not in that case, until parliament meets. Suppose the Pacific and Great Eastern and the Canadian National get together and arrange for the sale and purchase of the property for X millions of dollars; then I submit the agreement should not be executed by the Canadian National Railways until it has been submitted to this house and approved. In other words, we should not give approval after it is an accomplished fact.

Mr. DUNNING: I do not want any misunderstanding on so important a matter as this, relating not only to the Pacific and Great Eastern negotiations, but also to all the other negotiations which are now going on. This is what I apprehend will occur. My hon. friend will interrupt me if I am not stating it clearly. Negotiations will continue with respect to all these various propositions. Once the president and management of the Canadian National have reached an agreement which is satisfactory to them and to the prospective vendors, they will submit that agreement to the government for the purpose of finding out whether or not the government will approve of the terms and will recommend the agreement to parliament at its next session. Now, the proceedings may go as far as this point in some cases, not all—I cannot tell, but they may. The Canadian National Railways may negotiate an agreement which proves to be satisfactory to the government, and the government may then indicate its satisfaction and its intention to place the matter before parliament at the next session for approval. That may happen—I am not anticipating it will in many of these cases—but I do not want any misunderstanding as to what might happen with respect to, say, the St. John Valley railway or any of these other roads.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

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Mr. DUNNING: There is one exception which would apply to the roads connecting with the Intercolonial railway, possible acquisition of which is provided for by existing legislation.

Mr. BENNETT: Unless the statute is amended it would have to take the ordinary course.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: But to make it perfectly clear I would strongly deprecate the government passing an order in council approving negotiations unless parliament has had an opportunity to pass on them. The point I was endeavouring to make on Saturday and to-day is that before orders in council are passed the matters so dealt with should be submitted to parliament, as we did, for instance, with the Ottawa district commission—we should discuss the matters before the government has committed itself.

Mr. DUNNING: I will give consideration to it. I do not wish to be any more definite.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) has made certain personal references to myself, which if it were not one o'clock I would reply to. In order that the resolution may carry, I forego my right to reply to those references. I may take another occasion to deal with them.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

#### PRIVILEGE—MR. LUCHKOVICH

Mr. MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Being one o'clock—

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Before you leave the chair, Mr. Speaker, might I suggest that the faithful who are assembled here would probably prefer to reassemble at two o'clock, rather than at three, to assure the prorogation of parliament sometime to-day at all events. If that is acceptable to the house generally, I should be pleased if Your Honour would so state.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it would facilitate matters if we had concurrence now. It will take but a few minutes, and then the hon. gentleman may state his question of privilege.

Mr. LUCHKOVICH: It will not take very long, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday night when