

The preamble referred to representations that, by reason of economic, geographic and other disadvantages, certain sections of Canada were adversely affected by transportation difficulties and by certain anomalies in the existing tariffs of tolls and rates; as a result it would be in the public interest that an enquiry be made into the matters involved in order that all questions of economic policy within the jurisdiction of Parliament arising out of the operation and maintenance of national transportation be examined and reported upon.

Copies of the memorandum had been circulated.

(Minister's memorandum, Nov. 29, 1948 - Cabinet Document 811).

21. Mr. Chevrier mentioned the names of persons who might be considered suitable for appointment as commissioners and counsel and made reference to the question of suitable remuneration.

22. The Cabinet, after discussion:

(a) agreed that the following would be suitable terms of reference for the Commission:

(i) to review and report upon the effect, if any, of economic, geographic or other disadvantages under which certain sections of Canada find themselves in relation to the various transportation services therein, and recommend what measures should be initiated in order that the national transportation policy may best serve the general economic well being of all Canada;

(ii) to review the Railway Act with respect to such matters as guidance to the Board in general freight rate revisions, competitive rates, international rates, etc., and recommend any amendments which are necessary therein;

(iii) to review the capital structure of the Canadian National Railway Company and report on the advisability, (or otherwise), of establishing and maintaining the fixed charges of that Company on a basis comparable to other major railways in North America;

(iv) to review the present-day accounting methods and statistical procedure of railways in Canada, and report upon the advisability of adopting, (or otherwise), measures

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