

B. C. Telephone and Telegraph System

treated, in so far as the sale to the British Columbia Telephone Company was concerned.

However, with reference to the transfer to Canadian National Telegraphs I was unable to give any information to the house, because the departmental officers were in Montreal discussing the arrangements. These have now been completed and, in my opinion, they are as satisfactory as they were with the British Columbia Telephone Company. For that reason I am sure the house will be interested in knowing what are the terms of the transfer.

The plans of the Canadian National Telegraph Company for operation of the services which it is taking over, in conjunction with their present operations, would allow them to conduct the full operations with substantially fewer personnel. However, in an effort to be fair to federal employees, the C.N.T. has undertaken to provide employment to all present employees who have three years' service with the federal government and who have not reached the age of 65. In the case of those who have less than three years' service but who have not yet reached 65, the company is hoping to find alternative employment inside or outside the company.

Out of a total of over 60 individuals, five have reached the age of 65 and another 17 have less than three years' service. Those who cannot be absorbed will receive a month's notice as of April 1 and that includes mainly operators, messengers and clerks. I understand a few of these have been found, or will be found, other work, in some cases with the company. The situation is changing from day to day as further cases are solved.

Normal business adjustments and re-arrangements may, in due course, involve further staff changes, particularly as service duplications are eliminated, but this is a longer term prospect and employees taken over will receive, in any case, equality of treatment with other employees, subject to the normal obligations of the company.

In the matter of wages, at two of the points where services are taken over C.N.T. union agreements will apply and employees will receive the standard negotiated wage rates applicable to C.N.T. employees. At other points the C.N.T. will continue the basic rate of pay presently in existence for federal employees.

In the matter of pensions, any employees taken over who have earned federal super-annuation will, of course, retain this payable on reaching retirement age. In addition the C.N.T. pension plans will be made available to federal employees taken over, with the amount of the C.N.T. pension earned based

on service with the C.N.T. subsequent to transfer. In addition, since there are eligibility conditions for the C.N.T. pension plan based on periods of service, as a special concession to federal employees continuous service with the government telegraph service will be counted as C.N. service to establish eligibility.

As far as seniority rights are concerned, at the points covered by union agreement, namely Quesnel and Williams Lake, federal staff taken over will be secured against displacement so long as they remain in those positions. Since seniority is only involved at those points covered by wage agreements, it is not a relevant consideration at the other points where services are taken over. At such other points personnel will receive the rights and privileges applied to comparable positions and services throughout the C.N. system.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 379, for the relief of Gerald Emile La Grave.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 380, for the relief of Rita Boucher Dufort.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 381, for the relief of Lucy Halga Saunders Gibson.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 382, for the relief of Antonie Lutz Jedrzejewski.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 383, for the relief of Jessie Clarke Thompson.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 384, for the relief of Dorothy Coughtry Paquette.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 385, for the relief of Isabel Ruth Smith Newey.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 386, for the relief of Eugene Clifford Carbonneau.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 387, for the relief of Jean Antoine Francois Armand.—Mr. Hunter.

Bill No. 388, for the relief of Maria Clara Anita Cauchon Quirion.—Mr. Hunter.

QUESTIONS

C.B.C. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Thatcher:

1. What was the cost of producing the printed edition of the annual report of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1953?

2. What printing firm received the contract?

3. Were tenders invited, and, if so, was more than one submitted?

4. On what basis was the contract awarded?

5. How many copies were printed, and how many distributed?

Mr. McCann:

1. The complete price was \$5,630, including art work and engravings.

2. Might Directories Ltd., Toronto, Ontario.