

the possibility of materially increasing the average freight train load, either by improvements to the line in gradients or otherwise; or by increase in traction power, with a view to reducing the cost of the rail haul from Alberta to the head of the lakes, and also upon the costs of effecting such improvements.

Your Committee also beg to recommend that their proceedings and evidence which have been printed from day to day for the use of the Committee, and the members of the House, be revised for corrections and suitably indexed by the Clerk of the Committee, and that three hundred copies of same in English, and fifty copies in French, be printed for the use of the members of the Government, and for the use of the Dominion and Provincial Fuel Boards, and the members of the Advisory Fuel Board.

A copy of the Committee's proceedings, evidence and data is appended to this report for the information of the House.

(For Minutes of Proceedings, Evidence and data accompanying said Report see Appendix to the Journals, No. 4)

Mr. Cahill, from the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, presented the Fifth Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

Your Committee have considered Bill No. 174 (Letter H5 of the Senate), intituled: "An Act to incorporate The Detroit and Windsor Subway Company," and beg leave to report the same with amendments.

Your Committee desire to draw the attention of the House to the provisions of Section 7 of the said Bill, whereby the capital stock is made to consist of one million shares of no par value. Under the provisions of Rule 89, the capital stock of a company, seeking incorporation, is subject to taxation on the maximum amount mentioned in the Bill, in accordance with a scale of charges provided for in the Rule: but as no provision is contained in the said Rule covering cases where the capital stock consists of shares of no par value, no charge could be made on the stock of this company. Your Committee, therefore, recommend that in this instance the capital stock be valued (for the purpose of such taxing only) at five dollars per share, or a total of five million dollars, and that the usual fee or charge payable on that amount under the said Rule, namely \$700, be paid forthwith to the Clerk of the House.

Mr. Mercier (St. Henri), seconded by Mr. Donaghy, moved,—That the Third and Final Report of the Special Committee appointed to investigate the administration of the Department of Customs and Excise, be concurred in.

And a Debate arising thereon;

Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Doucet, moved in amendment thereto: That the Report be not now adopted, but that it be referred back to the Special Committee with instructions to add thereto the following clauses as sub-clauses to paragraph six:—

"The evidence further discloses that Ministerial action has been influenced by the improper pressure of political associates and friends of the Minister, or Acting Minister administering the department, resulting in the suspension and in some instances the abandonment of prosecutions against those charged with violation of the Statutes, and in the loss of revenue to the country. Moreover successful appeals have been made to the Minister and Acting Minister administering the department to improperly interfere with the course of justice between the conviction of the offenders and the execution of judgment thereon. The Prime Minister and the Government had knowledge for some considerable time of the rapid degeneration of the Department of Customs and Excise, and their failure to take prompt and effective remedial action is wholly indefensible. The