

ton, with these men and the Western Union. It is also doubtful if the Western Union would have entered this agreement if this collateral contract had not been consummated by the Canadian National Telegraphs for protecting the North Sydney group on their Western Union ratings. (Mr. Robb stated in evidence that the Western Union refused to sell the lines unless this undertaking, respecting basic salary ratings, was agreed to by the Canadian National).

I call attention to the fact that this is the evidence of Mr. Robb. Evidence was taken in 1933 and this report of the conciliation board was released in 1934.

I have noted the exhibit of the North Sydney group marked "A,"—

That is the letter from Mr. Carlton to which I have referred.

—which, in my opinion, showed an absolutely strong case that the Canadian National Telegraphs should be bound by the agreement made with the Canadian National Railway officials that the North Sydney group should be taken over by the Canadian National Telegraphs at the ratings they were receiving in North Sydney. With all due respect to any opinion to the contrary, I feel that this agreement was a collateral one and need not be embodied in the main agreement of sale. I think that the fact that the officials of the Canadian National Telegraphs not only paid the North Sydney group the increased ratings for a period of three years or more after the agreement, but recognized these ratings in correspondence, without protest, should be sufficiently convincing to find that no person or corporation could repudiate it.

The findings of the board were not unanimous, but the report was signed by Judge Murray and the representative of the men. Judge Murray was the chairman. Mr. McInnis represented the Canadian National and Mr. Lunn represented the men. A majority of the board, consisting of the chairman and Mr. Lunn, representing the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of North America, found in effect—I am not going to read the finding—that the men had made out the case they were contending for, that they were entitled to their ratings and that these ratings should be continued. Some person has handed me a note saying he is very anxious to get home. So am I, but I want to say that these men have been struggling for a number of years to establish the justice and equity of their claim. They proceeded in the regular way, recognized by the government and the parliament of this country; they went before a conciliation board and established their claim, and all I am asking on their behalf and all they are asking is that this claim be recognized by the proper authorities.

Let me quote a few salaries in order to show this house how these men have been treated. D. Merritt had served the company for twelve years; he was rated as a clerk,

[Mr. D. A. Cameron.]

but he was an operator. He was receiving \$130 a month and in 1933 his salary was arbitrarily reduced to \$90 per month. In addition the ten per cent cut, which was applied all around, was applied to this man also, leaving him to bring up a family of six or seven children on a salary of \$80 a month. J. Rogers was receiving \$175 per month; he was reduced to \$125. Y. F. Tutty, whom I know very well, who was born and brought up in North Sydney and who, I imagine, must have served for thirty or forty years, had his salary reduced by \$50. Some of these men were removed from North Sydney and located in other offices. They had been enabled to build their homes under a loan agreement with the Western Union, and they had properties at North Sydney. Owing to the depressed state of the real estate market those properties to-day are of very little use to them, but these operators were compelled to leave their homes and their families to work in another place with their salaries reduced anywhere from \$20 to \$50 a month.

That is a situation, Mr. Speaker, which is not going to be settled by the mere statement of Mr. Galloway, the head of the Canadian National Telegraphs, that the matter is closed. The matter is not closed as long as the findings of a competent court, which said these men made out the case they sought to make out, are ignored, and as long as the other party to the agreement of submission has not lived up to those findings. I am asking the minister to do these men the justice of having their case, I will not say reviewed, but studied and the facts as they were brought out before this court looked into, so that between his department and the Department of Labour the appropriate remedy may be applied. I know one of the suggestions urged is that if you pay these ratings to the men in North Sydney you will be in conflict with the union now in control of the Canadian National Telegraphs. I am not concerned about that conflict. I am concerned, however, that the pledged word of this country, given through the management of the Canadian National Railways, should be honoured and redeemed by those now in positions of authority and responsibility, who are able to give effect to the findings of the board. I ask the minister to give this matter his most careful and sympathetic attention.

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Railways and Canals): I may say that this is entirely a matter for the internal management of the railways, but I shall be glad to call it to the attention of the president.