

mittee be empowered to sit while the House is in session.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Sir HERBERT AMES moved:

That the recommendations contained in the Preliminary Report of the Committee on Returned Soldiers be concurred in, and the action of the Committee in exercising certain powers and authorities referred to in the report, notwithstanding the fact that such powers and authorities were not given in the original appointment of the Committee, be approved and ratified, and that the said Committee is hereby empowered to send for persons and papers, to report from time to time, to adjourn from place to place, to print the evidence taken before the Committee; and that the Committee be authorized to sit while the House is in session.

Motion agreed to.

#### REPORT.

Statistics of Express Companies for the year 1915—Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

#### RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. COCHRANE moved:

That the names of Messrs. Hartt, Weichel and Bradbury be substituted for those of Messrs. Crothers, Fowler and Sir Herbert Ames on the special committee to whom was referred Bill No. 13, an Act to consolidate and amend the Railway Act, and also that the name of Mr. Macdonald (Pictou) be added to the said committee.

Motion agreed to.

#### NEWSPRINT PAPER.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: With your leave, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Government whether or not an Order in Council was passed during the recess fixing the price of paper to be supplied by manufacturers to publishers, and, if so, whether the Order in Council will be brought down to the House.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: An Order in Council has been passed giving the Minister of Customs authority to fix the price of newsprint paper in Canada. The purpose of the Order was to provide an adequate supply of newsprint paper at reasonable prices to the publishers of newspapers. The Order to which I refer was not to become effective until gazetted. It provided that newsprint papers could only be exported by license. That Order was not gazetted, because, upon taking the matter up with the manufacturers of newsprint paper, an arrangement was reached whereby they made a fixed mill price and by

reason of that action it was not thought necessary to enforce the Order in Council. Subsequently, in order to meet a situation which developed, a further Order in Council was passed; under the provisions of which the Minister of Customs was authorized to fix the price of newsprint paper sold in Canada, and an officer of the Government was authorized, if necessary, to take possession of supplies of newsprint paper required by newspaper publishers throughout Canada and to sell at a price fixed by the minister, and distribute to Canadian newspapers. If my Rt. Hon. friend desires that both Orders should be brought down I shall be very glad to lay them upon the Table in due course.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: This is a very important action, and I imagine it should have been communicated to Parliament as soon as Parliament convened. It is practically amending the tariff, and I should expect the minister to be kind enough to bring down these papers, the first Order in Council, the agreement with the manufacturers and publishers, and the second Order in Council.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: There is no written agreement between the Government and the manufacturers.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: There is an agreement between the manufacturers and the publishers, as I understood.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: An understanding was reached whereby \$2.50 was fixed as the mill price. I am not aware that there is any written agreement between the manufacturers of news print paper and the newspaper publishers of Canada, but the manufacturers agreed among themselves to fix a price of \$2.50 at the mill to supply the Canadian newspaper publishers who have been their customers.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: As a consequence of the first Order in Council which was passed but not gazetted, and which was not to come into force until it was gazetted, an agreement of some kind was made between the manufacturers themselves or between the manufacturers and publishers. The Government must have had communication of that agreement.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The communication which the Government had was that the price had been fixed at \$2.50 at the mill, and we did not gazette the Order in Council or proceed further because that price had been fixed. The fixing of the price depended