

give better service to the people, I would give it to the C. P. R., but all things being equal, we ought to favour our own road.

Mr. POWER: I think you will find that is the case.

The CHAIRMAN: I don't think so.

Mr. POWER: All right, let us bring the Deputy Minister of the Post Office Department to give us an explanation.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We did that for two years, and got no results.

The CHAIRMAN: Apparently we did not get results, because the National Railway got less business last year than the year before, so it seemed to have an ill effect.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: There is this view; that the public business of the country really is a separate matter from the operation of the National Railway system. I suppose I am Minister of all the railways, not only of the Canadian National, and in all fairness, it should be said that the Canadian Pacific is a very large taxpayer in this country—in fact, I think, one of the largest we have—and I do not believe this committee would be disposed to take the arbitrary ground that wherever the Canadian National can do the business, it should be given to them, regardless of other considerations.

Mr. HEAPS: Mr. Dunning, if you had a grocery store, would you buy groceries from a competitor?

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: I think you will find the railway situation is very much more complicated than a grocery business.

Mr. POWER: If that other grocery gave me a share of its profits to help me pay the deficit in my own business, I don't see why I should kick.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: Mr. Chairman, would it not be an advantage, instead of discussing these matters in the abstract, to get some concrete facts before us for our consideration?

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Do you think it is fair to have here only the officials of the Post Office Department? There are other factors that enter into this. Mr. Minister, do you think it would be advisable that we should call the officials of the Post Office Department, and perhaps other Departments before us, to discuss the principle upon which the business is allotted to the railways? There are a number of factors which must be considered. Three or four years ago, I think, this committee passed a resolution, or a recommendation, to give at least a proportion of two-thirds preference to the National over the other railways. I should like to know whether that has been followed by the departments. It must be taken into consideration that business is given to the railways by the other departments as well as by the Post Office Department, if you want to arrive at the amount of business obtained by the railways from the government.

Mr. HEAPS: I want them all; the business from every source.

The CHAIRMAN: I should think that what you want is the principle adopted by the government, whether they favor their own route or not. I mean in regard to what business the government has to give the railways?

Mr. HEAPS: That is right.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: I understand that they give the business in the proportion of one-third and two-thirds.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not remember hearing of that.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: I understand that these were instructions given by the Minister. I do not think an Order-in-Council was made but I think there was a circular of that kind issued to the department.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: We can get a comparison from the receipts, as between the two companies; but when you consider the three items, the post

[Sir Henry Thornton.]