

without refrigeration for some distance, then unload the freight into a shed, and if there was any congestion, it would have to remain in the shed for some time. Under these circumstances perishable products would be injured. If fresh fish, for instance, is taken out of cold storage, within a very short time it suffers depreciation, in fact it sustains more injury and is of less value when it reaches the point of consumption than if it had never been in cold storage at all. The congestion at the shipping points in Prince Edward Island will certainly be very great.

Mr. COCHRANE: Putting the railway under the Railway Board will not hurt conditions?

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: The Government will be able to shift the responsibility to another body.

Mr. COCHRANE: The people will be able to shift responsibility to other people too.

Mr. HUGHES: What advantage will it be?

Mr. COCHRANE: It is no disadvantage and it is certainly a great advantage.

Mr. HUGHES: I am very much afraid there will be considerable disadvantage. The minister really wishes to shift part of the responsibility upon the shoulders of this board. Then he will have what is known as a "wicked partner." At any time he does not wish to make any change or to take any steps in the interest of the people, he can say that the board will not allow him, that he is circumscribed by the new conditions. There is no reason in the world why the amendment should not be accepted. I wish to impress upon the minister, the Government, and the members of Parliament, the very great disadvantage under which the province of Prince Edward Island labours in marketing its products. I mentioned a day or two ago that two prominent members of this Government, the right hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) and the hon. the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White), last spring had advised the people, those of Prince Edward Island as well as others, to produce more. We acted upon that suggestion and we have an abundant crop this year in Prince Edward Island; but we shall not be able to market it. It is a sad thing to think that while food products are scarce perhaps in other parts of the world, and perhaps in some parts of

Canada, crops will go to waste in Prince Edward Island simply because they cannot reach the market. I do not imagine that the present Government can do everything. They adopted this car ferry system but they have been very tardy in pushing it. Five years have passed and it was to have been finished in two years. Now the minister does not mention any date for the beginning of the work of standardizing the Prince Edward Island railway.

Mr. COCHRANE: Tell me when the war will be over.

Mr. HUGHES: The minister made a promise since the war began.

Mr. COCHRANE: No, I do not.

Mr. HUGHES: The minister said that he was going on with his work.

Mr. COCHRANE: No, I did not.

Mr. HUGHES: Standardizing the Prince Edward Island railway to enable food products where they are in abundance to reach the markets of the world, may fairly be classed as a war measure as well as a trade measure.

Amendment (Mr. J. J. Hughes) lost on division.

On the schedule—

Mr. COCHRANE: With regard to the motion to strike out the schedule and substitute an amended schedule, I desire to add to the amendment the following:

Sections 371 to 373, both inclusive, and 381 and also the following provision at the end of the schedule:

Provided that no prosecution for the imposition of any fine or penalty under section 439 of the Railway Act as applied to Government railways shall be brought except upon the consent of the Board

Schedule as amended, agreed to.

On the Preamble:

Mr. MACDONALD: Do I understand that the minister will not provide for permitting actions to be brought against the railway in the name of the general manager for fires and all the other claims which may arise? In other words, will he not remove the limitation of \$500?

Mr. DOHERTY: That is another Act altogether. We shall have to consider that.

Mr. MACDONALD: The situation is that you have the Government Railway Act—

Mr. COCHRANE: That does not come under the Government Railways Act.