

that were burned produced no grass for the rest of the season. One farmer, Ralph Hawley, had 40 head of cattle other than his own pasturing on his land at one time. Some of these fences have not yet been totally rebuilt.

Much of the seeded land was seeded to Birds Foot Trefoil, which was burned over. I remind the house that it costs at least \$8 per acre just for the seed. One man lost 800 bales of hay. I have checked today with many of the people and no settlement has been received by any of them for the damages incurred in this fire.

Here is an example of the lack of action and procrastination of the Canadian National bureaucracy. The Canadian National is most inconsistent in this matter. The bills rendered by the various fire departments for fighting this fire, and the attitude of the Canadian National toward paying them are as follows: The Deseronto fire department rendered a bill for \$50 to Tyendinaga township, and the township billed the Canadian National, the latter refused to pay, saying they were taxpayers and entitled to fire protection. The same thing happened with regard to a bill from the city of Belleville fire department which amounted to about \$350. Tyendinaga township paid this bill but could not collect the money from the railway.

On the other hand, the Napanee fire department was called to the same fire in the Richmond township area. They rendered a bill for \$170 to the Richmond township council. Richmond, in turn, billed the Canadian National and received payment in full in the month of September, less than two months after the incident. How ridiculous and inconsistent can this railway bureaucracy be? They assume responsibility in one instance and ignore their obligations in another, and es-

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion
pecially for the damage done to the farmers and agricultural industry in the area.

I protest most strongly, Mr. Speaker, the failure of the railway company to right this wrong and their failure to satisfy the reasonable and deserving requests of the farmers in the area who have suffered certain damage. I remind the house that we are all glad to learn the Canadian National had a good year last year. However, I submit that they should not enjoy this financial improvement at the expense of the farmers along the right of way in Richmond and Tyendinaga townships. I ask that these just claims now be paid.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, obviously the conflagration was not sufficient to set a fire under the claims department of the Canadian National Railways.

The minister sincerely regrets the inconvenience and difficulties that have been caused to farmers and others in those communities as outlined by the hon. member. Certainly he will urge, in so far as his responsibility will permit, that the Canadian National do everything in its power, and undertake everything for which it is legally responsible.

It appears a coincidence that we have been informed that only today officials of the Canadian National claims department have journeyed to the community to finalize these agreements. I want to assure the hon. member that his representations have not gone unnoticed. I hope everything will be satisfactorily arranged during the visit of the officials to that area.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.28 p.m.