

why that is so. Also, why are the Yukon accounts not tabled?—A. I am very glad Mr. Macdonnell has brought that point up because the sentence in my report dealing with the custodian of enemy property may be misleading. Up until 1947 the custodian of enemy property was under no obligation to report to the House of Commons and it was not the practice to make one. In 1947 there was the legislation called Trading With the Enemy (Transitional Powers) Act, which requires the custodian to make an annual report on his operations. The custodian makes a report on those operations and the report for the year which is now under review was tabled in the House of Commons on the 14th of March. That review did not include the Auditor's report because the audit was not completed as of that date. We are always delayed by reason of the fact that we have to get the reports from the various custodians throughout Canada who hold securities and other property, and our report was not signed in time to be included. However, the report of the custodian did include a statement regarding the financial transactions, and you can accept that report as setting out all the material things that were set out ultimately in the Auditor's statement. So far as the Yukon Territory is concerned, sir, they operate independently of the government of Canada. There is a special Yukon consolidated fund and they operate as a separate entity, but by law the Auditor General of Canada audits their funds.

Mr. THATCHER: Mr. Chairman, last year the committee made a recommendation to parliament concerning these Crown corporations, and there is a recommendation on page 1013 of the evidence of last year which says:

Your committee is of the opinion that the yearly report of every Crown corporation should be referred for study to a select committee of the House.

I wonder if either the Chairman or the Auditor General could tell me whether that has been done in any case; and, if not, whether it will be done?

The CHAIRMAN: It will be for some member of the government to inform us whether it has been done, or if the government intends to carry out the suggestion contained in the recommendation from our committee. I do not think that either the Auditor General or myself is the proper person to answer that question. We do not know the intentions of the government. The committee has made a report and that report is before the government. Your question is one which should be put on the order paper in the House, but I do not think the Auditor General or myself could answer it now.

*By Mr. Thatcher:*

Q. Well then, perhaps the Auditor General could tell me whether any of these companies listed here came before any parliamentary committee in the past year?—A. All of them were audited by me, sir. Their accounts are in the blue book before you.

Q. Are any of them coming up for scrutiny before any committee of parliament that you know of?—A. Other than this?

Q. Yes.—A. We know that the Canadian National Railways, for example, come here every year.

Q. I mean companies of the kind you have listed here; have any of those companies come before a parliamentary committee?—A. Not other than this one, sir.

Q. That means then that the only scrutiny they get is what you give them, is that correct?—A. And this committee. You examined practically all of them; you asked questions last year with regard to a very large number of these companies that are in the list there.