

Minister, the Department of Labour appointed Mr. H. S. Johnstone, a conciliation officer in the Department of Labour, as a special investigator to look into the matter so as to give the government the necessary information to enable them to determine whether or not a royal commission should be established.

Mr. Johnstone's direction to undertake this investigation appears to have been given to him by Mr. M. M. McLean, director of industrial relations, on April 24, 1945. He proceeded forthwith to make his inquiry, and in due course made a report to the Minister of Labour under date of December 7, 1945. I felt very strongly that since the whole matter arose out of a dispute between two parties, once that report had been made it should be presented to the parties concerned. However, at the beginning the Minister of Labour did not agree with me on that point. A copy of the report was sent by him to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to which after some months a reply was made, and that reply was tabled in the house. It was not until August 20 that the minister yielded to my request and tabled a copy of the report in the house. It is now known as sessional paper 238-A.

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend should also say that we had copies mimeographed so that he could send them to his friends.

Mr. KNOWLES: As a matter of fact, I was going to get around to that. I am very glad to say that the minister was good enough to meet my request and have about sixty-five or seventy copies of this document mimeographed so that I could send them out, as he says, to my friends. Yes, they are my friends, but they are also persons deeply concerned in this issue.

Mr. MITCHELL: I am sorry; perhaps I should have put it in that way.

Mr. KNOWLES: I might say to the minister that I am already receiving letters back from some of these individuals expressing gratitude for the report and saying that it is extremely encouraging to read this document which was prepared by Mr. Johnstone, and to note his comments and recommendations.

This issue is one with which the minister and I at least are familiar. It is one that involves a good many questions and a good deal of factual material. It is also a matter of deep human interest, one that concerns a great many workers who feel that they have been dealt with most unjustly. It is in essence a dispute between certain employees of the Canadian Pacific and the company. In my previous remarks in the house on this matter

I have gone into the merits of the dispute between the employees and the company. What I have had to say makes it clear that, in my view, the case is all on the side of the men, but I rise at this time not to repeat the arguments that I have made in the past on behalf of the men with respect to their dispute with the company, but rather to deal with the issue that now faces the government.

The request which was made to the government in the spring of 1945 came from a number of unions, the brotherhood of railroad trainmen, the brotherhood of railway and steamship clerks, the international association of machinists, the brotherhood of express employees, and, I believe, the Canadian merchant service guild. That request was for the appointment of a royal commission. The reply of the government was that they would have to look into the matter to determine whether or not the royal commission should be established. That preliminary inquiry was made by Mr. Harris Johnstone of the Department of Labour. He has now made his report back to the Minister of Labour, and it is in this document to which I have referred, which the minister had mimeographed for me. It is a definite recommendation that such a royal commission should be established. I think I should read one or two paragraphs from the report to indicate how definite is the recommendation and also something of the tone of what Mr. Johnstone has found. In the first paragraph he indicates the nature of the task which was given to him, saying in part:

I was told that you would like me to forward the results of that investigation with the recommendation so that with this information at hand you could determine whether or not to recommend the appointment of a royal commission.

That was the task given to Mr. Johnstone. At page 17 of his report, just before he signs his name, he measures up to the task which was given to him in this concluding paragraph:

It is the opinion of the undersigned that the employees have established strong claims for consideration. The nature and extent for adjustments, if any, cannot be determined except by a more exhaustive analysis than was possible, or even contemplated in this preliminary investigation. I would therefore recommend that a royal commission be established to examine into the whole question to determine what, if any, consideration should be granted, and if so, then to whom and in what manner pension adjustments should be made.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Twelve o'clock.

Mr. KNOWLES: Mr. Chairman, I hear hon. members calling attention to the time. I have a little more to add to this, but I am prepared to do so to-morrow.

Mr. MITCHELL: Go ahead and finish it.