

Mr. MACDONNELL: I think that Mr. Gordon has stated it very accurately. I did not intend to imply that they were just going to be a lot of rubber stamps. I think the board of directors can be useful in questions of policy.

Mr. POULIOT: Rubber stamps or statues?

Mr. MOTT: I think, Mr. Chairman, there should be better geographical representation on the board of directors; with the great increase in development in British Columbia, I do not think you have a member of the board of directors who is from that province. I understood your wish was to have the directors closer in order to attend meetings of the board. Have we a representative from the west now, and if so who is he?

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: Mr. Parker is a resident of Winnipeg.

Mr. MOTT: That is the very answer I got the year before last, namely, that Winnipeg is as far west as the directors go. But I think, having regard to the great increase of industry in both British Columbia and Alberta, and in view of the fact that the Canadian National Railways are doing so much, that there should be a representative on the board representing those two provinces.

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: I think you made known those representations to me and to the government on more than one occasion; so I am apprised of them, Mr. Mott.

Mr. POULIOT: I am very sorry that I cannot agree with your idea of not tampering with the management and I will tell you why. If you have a car without a brake, where will you go? The idea behind having a board of directors is that of bringing to the attention of the management the ideas of the men on the street. It can be done with these six people, because these men are in all walks of life and they meet people, and therefore they know the feeling of people; so that when the company comes forward with a proposal of any kind, they can give their opinions, which are then weighed by the company. The company can then decide whether or not it can be done.

Mr. MACDONNELL: You seem to be agreeing with me, Mr. Pouliot, if I understand you correctly.

Mr. POULIOT: We nearly always agree; but in this case, while I do not know all the gentlemen personally, those I do know I think would be very useful because they belong to other boards and they meet business men and they can give to the management the opinions of the average business man or the average citizen.

Mr. MACDONNELL: If I gave you the idea in what I said that I had the slightest degree of criticism in mind, then I have slipped badly. I said that I thought it was possible to have a little more of a good thing. You said they would be able to bring to the board a cross-section of public opinion and I agree. But I think that 20 good men could do it better than 6 good men.

The CHAIRMAN: This matter has now been brought to the attention of the committee. The members will remember it, and when the time comes for us to draft our report, we may have something finalized. Shall we now turn to page 6?

Mr. GILLIS: We are on page 6, are we not?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, on general questions.

Mr. GILLIS: I would like to ask Mr. Gordon what progress has been made in regard to the straightening out of the capital structure in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Transportation. You made reference in your report to the fact that the royal commission had recommended some measure of relief. I notice according to this report that you are still about where you were. What measure of relief did they recommend, and when do you anticipate that that measure of relief may be forthcoming?