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RAIL PLAN IS THROWN OUT

Alberta Government Does Not Favor Beaverlodge-Narawa Route For Peace River

EDMONTON, March 19.—The Beaverlodge-Narawa railway project was thrown out of the railways committee of the legislature and will not get the charter it asked for. The vote was almost unanimous, Hugh Allen, U.F.A. member for Peace River being the only member to vote "No."

Hon. V. W. Smith, minister of railways, took a stand against a charter, contending that the route proposed was impracticable from the standpoint of economical construction. The 78 miles he said within the Alberta bounds would carry the road only to the British Columbia boundary, but that the company had made no arrangements to proceed beyond that point.

Railways Keep Faith

Mr. Smith also pointed out that since their joint purchase of the Northern Alberta lines the C.P.R. and C.N.R. have been keeping faith and have done even more in the way of development and improvement than they agreed to. At a cost of \$2,000,000 or more, 65 miles of new construction will be undertaken this year, new steel will be laid on 100 miles, some eight or ten new stations are to be built this summer, and an extra passenger train will be put on.

An intensive survey of the whole north country has also been undertaken, involving an expenditure already of \$365,000, and the railway companies have been making every effort to find out what really is in the country. The promoters of the Beaverlodge project have neither made any such survey nor submitted any plans of that sort.

The estimated cost of the proposed road is too low, Mr. Smith believed, and he was more than doubtful as to the possibility of low gradients over a large part of the route.

Premier Seconds Motion

Premier Brownlee also took a hand at the killing, seconding Mr. Smith's motion not to proceed with the bill and pointing out that the legislature is in honor bound to keep faith with the railway companies to whom the provincial lines were sold and with whom an agreement was made and ratified.

"We have no reason to complain," said Mr. Brownlee, "of the treatment given the Peace River country by the C.P.R. and C.N.R. in the eight months since they took over the northern lines. They have a good program of extensions, and a longer opportunity should be given them to work out their plans and policies. On the grounds of good faith alone, this house should not give a charter to other interests until there has been such opportunity or until there has been some evidence of failure on the part of the two companies to live up to their agreement."

Both Sir Henry Thornton and E. W. Beatty, the respective heads of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific systems, have been communicated with since the bill was first brought up, the premier said, and letters have been received from them to the effect that they objected to charter rights being given of the kind proposed.

"As to the coast outlet," Mr. Brownlee concluded, "that will come, we believe, if the two national roads are given a fair opportunity to work out a plan. We are not disposed to sit back and let them have the business of the north country without doing some developing, but they are moving, and it would be a mistake for us to mix the situation again by letting in another competitive element."

Hugh Allen For Charter

Hugh Allen claimed that more consideration should be given the Beaverlodge project. If the route is impracticable, as suggested, it would at least be harmless to give a charter. Mr. Allen saw in the proposed road a solution of the coast outlet problem, and he said the people of the Peace River district are fearful that the north will be developed in the interests of British Columbia rather than of Alberta.

The heavy weight of opinion in the committee was against the scheme, however, and by a decisive vote the bill was killed, so far as the present session is concerned.

C. N. R. steamer Prince John, Capt. William Thomas, arrived in port at 5.30 this morning from Vancouver via the Queen Charlotte Islands with a fair-sized passenger list and freight cargo.

Hospital Work Under Review

Report of House Committee Caused Discussion at Last Night's Meeting

Reporting for the house committee of which he is chairman, Ald. Brown stated at last night's meeting of the hospital board that repairs to the floor of the Fifth Avenue entrance to the hospital and in the kitchen, as authorized by the board a month ago, had been effected. The system of water pipes in the building had also been renovated.

R. E. Benson inquired by what means the work had been carried out in repairing the floors and if bids had been asked. He was in favor of such work being done by contract wherever possible.

Ald. Brown explained that the nature of the work did not lend itself to calling for tenders since there was so much preliminary work to be done in order to ascertain just what repairs were necessary. Being in the building a good deal himself at the time, he had authorized L. C. Eby to proceed with the work without formally consulting with the committee.

Ald. Macdonald mentioned that Ald. Brown had mentioned the matter to him and that he (Ald. Macdonald) had approved of the action being taken. He, himself, was in favor of giving everybody a chance on such work wherever possible. The idea should be dispelled that all hospital work was going to be done by contract.

President J. H. Thompson thought that, in future, it would be wise for members of the committee to get together when such work was to be carried out.

Suffering from a cold, William Goldbloom entered the Prince Rupert General Hospital last evening for a few days' treatment.



ROBERT ENGLAND, who has been appointed Western Manager, Department of Colonization and Agriculture, Canadian National Railways, Winnipeg. He succeeds J. S. McGowan, who has been promoted Assistant Director of the department at Montreal.

THE WEATHER

Dominion Telegraph Service

- Prince Rupert — Clear, calm, temperature, 24.
- Haysport — Part cloudy, 25.
- Port Simpson — Part cloudy, calm 24.
- Hazelton — Part cloudy, calm, 15.
- Smithers — Cloudy, calm, 15.
- Burns Lake — Cloudy, calm, frosty
- Vanderhoof — Cloudy, calm, 2.
- Quensel — Clear, calm, frosty.
- Fourth Cabin — Cloudy, calm, zero
- Eighth Cabin — Clear, calm.
- Terrace — Cloudy, calm, 20.
- Rosswood — Clear, calm, 16.
- Aiyansh — Part cloudy, calm, 16.
- Allice Arm — Part cloudy, calm 22.
- Anyox — Part cloudy, calm, 22.
- Stewart — Clear, calm, 18.

A letter from Miss E. G. Lenox which was read at the meeting of the hospital board last night, enclosed a donation of \$10 from the Christian Women's Society of St. Andrew's Japanese Mission toward the building of a new hospital. Hope was expressed in the letter that the new building might materialize before long.

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- Cream of Wheat— Per pkg. **25c**
- Tilson's Health Bran— Per pkg. **15c**
- B. & K. Pastry Flour— 10 lb. sack **55c**
- Heinz Chili Sauce— Per bottle **35c**
- Libby's Asparagus Tips— 2 tins **65c**
- Royal City Golden Bantam Corn— Per tin **20c**
- Columbia Pure Strawberry Jam— 4 lb. tin **60c**
- Fraser Valley Apricot Jam— 4 lb. tin **50c**
- Malkin's Best Pure Honey— 4 lb. tin **75c**
- Clark's Tomato Catchup— 2 bottles **45c**
- Rowat Worcester Sauce— Per bottle **15c**
- Canada's Pride Pure Maple Syrup— 2 1/2 tins **90c**
- Sunnybrook Creamery Butter— 3 lb. brick **\$1.25**
- Eggs— Fresh Extras, largest size, 3 doz. **\$1.25**
- Palmolive Toilet Soap— 12 cakes **95c**
- Sunlight Soap— 2 pkgs. **45c**
- Royal Crown Washing Powder— 2 pkgs. **45c**

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