

made the difference between spending and not spending money on roads? When we were not giving them enough money, then they did not spend money on roads, but when we began to pour the money in to them, they began to spend it; but it's our money all the same. It's only fair to say that. We must give credit where it is due,

but not where it is not due. Roads will be built in future and maintained and repaired only if we give them the money to do it, whether it is Commission or some other government....

[The committee rose and reported progress and the Convention adjourned]

January 14, 1947

Report of the Transportation and Communications Committee:¹ Committee of the Whole

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, before we go into the section of the report dealing with posts and telegraphs, there are some answers to questions raised in the House in the debates on previous matters, that I have to table.

On the Railway, there was some question as to the amount of money paid out in claims. The Manager informed the Transportation Committee in a meeting this forenoon that in the year ending March 31, 1946, the total amount of claims paid out by the Railway was \$36,982 and in the previous year \$26,000. The amount paid out in claims runs from \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year. We asked for some explanation of even that relatively small amount — only 1% of the freight handled by the Railway in the course of the year — and two explanations were given. The first is that, since the war especially, shippers have not been using wooden containers but paper cartons instead. These get broken and the contents are strewn around or are pilfered. In the second place, the amount includes compensation paid to owners of cattle and horses killed along the railway. Another matter is that of free passes issued to persons on the Newfoundland Railway.

Mr. Figary Before we go on to the question of passes, I would like to ask, in regard to claims, is the chairman of the Committee aware that we could not get wooden containers, and that 25% was charged on cardboard containers?

Mr. Smallwood The freight charged on containers was not a matter into which we went.... On the matter of the railway passes. In the first place, passes are issued only to employees of the Railway. One holiday pass per year may or will be issued to any railroader working a certain number of years, and the dependent members of his family.... Passes are issued to no one else

except Commissioners and to His Excellency the Governor; when the Commissioners or His Excellency, have a private or special car, the government pays the Railway for it. This privilege is universal practice — to give free passes to railway employees. Most railways exchange the privilege with each other....

Mr. Starkes Does that mean that Canadian railroaders coming to this country can travel on a pass?

Mr. Smallwood Yes, for employees of the railways who have that arrangement with the Newfoundland Railway.... The General Manager told us that very few Americans or Canadians travel to Newfoundland on passes; many more Newfoundlanders go up there than Canadians or Americans come down here.... All applications for passes go to the head of the department and from him to the General Manager, and he must sign them before they are any good. In that way they keep a record and the General Manager knows exactly what is happening with regard to the issuing of free passes on the Railway.

Mr. Crummey Could you tell us the number of passes in 1946 and the mileage covered?

Mr. Smallwood Neither I nor any member of the Committee nor any member of the Convention present thought of enquiring as to the actual number of passes issued. The issuing of railway passes is so commonplace throughout the world that mere details as to the number of passes is relatively unimportant. I ought to say that these free passes are merely for travelling. They do not include meals on the train or sleepers. In fact, if a railroader travelling on a pass wants a sleeper, he must buy an upper; he is not permitted to buy a lower berth.

Mr. Job raised the question about duties col-

¹Volume II:75.