

NATIONAL DEFENCE

AIRPORT SOUTH OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. C. Miller (Portage la Prairie): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Some transfer of authority is taking place affecting the airport south of Portage la Prairie. I should like the minister to indicate what the plans of the government are with regard to this matter; in particular whether the airport will be reopened for training purposes, or whether other expansion is contemplated.

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I shall be glad to look into the matter and give my hon. friend an answer later.

SAM CARR

STATEMENT AS TO CHARGE TO BE PREFERRED UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce that Mr. Sam Carr is now in custody in Ottawa and will be brought before a magistrate in this city tomorrow. He will probably be remanded for one week. In anticipation of Mr. Carr's return we had retained Mr. John Cartwright, K.C., of Toronto to act as government counsel in this case. The charge with which we propose to proceed is that of conspiracy to commit forgery. This is under section 573 of the Criminal Code, and carries a maximum sentence of seven years. The alleged offence occurred in connection with the renewal of a Canadian passport issued to one Witczak and taken from him and used by an international spy posing under his name.

SOCIAL SECURITY

QUESTION AS TO PROVISION FOR INCAPACITATED PERSONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Welfare. Has anything been done for the incapacitated people in Canada so as to give some relief and some social security to these unfortunate deserving people?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I think the hon. gentleman would be the first to admit the general character of his question. I cannot of course say what is being done, other than by the government of Canada, for the people concerned. I may say that much is being done for those who are incapacitated for one

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reason or another. I would call the attention of the hon. gentleman to the provisions that are made in the national health plan to cover tubercular patients, and persons suffering from cancer, arthritis, poliomyelitis, mental disease, and so on. I am sure the hon. member will appreciate the very wide scope of the services covered by these grants.

NEWFOUNDLAND

APPROVAL OF TERMS OF UNION WITH CANADA

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved the third reading of Bill No. 11, to approve the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Mr. John R. MacNicol (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I shall not delay for more than a few moments the passage of this important and historic bill. I am fairly familiar with that magnificent island which is to be our tenth province; yet I feel that I should speak very briefly. Newfoundland was represented at the Quebec conference of 1864, when the four provinces of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—decided to enter confederation. I often recall the words of Sir Ambrose Shea, who was one of the two Newfoundland representatives. So far as they were concerned they were satisfied with the proposals and would have joined the confederation, but did not have the authority to do so at that time. Ever since 1864, well-wishers of confederation, both in Newfoundland and in Canada, have looked forward to this day. I am sure we are all happy indeed at the prospect that lies before us. I will not repeat the exact words of Sir Ambrose Shea, but he said that, looking into the future, he could hardly describe the great vista that opened before him, in the realization of what confederation would mean to his province and to Canada.

Confederation has turned out to be something much greater than anything Sir Ambrose Shea could have visualized. At that time British Columbia was not a part of Canada, nor were the three western provinces. If Sir Ambrose could have foreseen the Canada of today, of which Newfoundland will be the tenth province, he would have seen that we have one river, the Mackenzie, with the largest basin, all in the same country, on the whole continent of North America. Some will say at once that I am forgetting the Mississippi, but the basin of the Mississippi is not all in the United States; part of it is in Alberta and part of it is in Saskatchewan. The Mackenzie river is wholly in Canada.

Canada also borders the largest lake in the world, although not all of it is in Canada. Eleven thousand square miles of the 31,000

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square miles of Lake Superior are in Canada. We also have exceptionally high mountains. At the time of Sir Ambrose Shea, the St. Elias group of mountains between Yukon and Alaska, which rises to a great height, were not known to be in Canada. The highest mountain in that range is Mount Logan, with a height of 19,850 feet. Canada has inexhaustible resources. What would Sir Ambrose Shea have seen? He would have seen that the Canada of today is one of the largest national areas in the world. I believe we are exceeded only by Russia, including Siberia, but we are larger than European Russia. Together with Newfoundland's 152,000 square miles, we shall now have approximately 3,750,000 square miles. Including Newfoundland and Labrador, the population of Canada will be very close to thirteen and a half million people.

We have grown to be a very great state both in area and in population. Our cousins to the south have a larger population, but continental United States is more than 750,000 square miles smaller than Canada. Including Alaska it is perhaps 150,000 square miles less. I do not know whether it is there now because the building may have been blown down in the late war, but I often think of the inscription on the money exchange building in London near the famous monument to the great fire. The inscription is: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." When God made this part of the world he must have been thinking of the fulness of this country, because, interpreting fulness as material wealth, in many respects we surpass the whole world. For instance, there is nickel; in Canada we have approximately nine-tenths of all the nickel in the world.

Mr. St. Laurent: Asbestos.

Mr. MacNicol: Asbestos is to be found in the eastern townships of Quebec; we have approximately eighty to ninety per cent of all the asbestos in the world. Our country is rich in all minerals. It is only a few years ago that Canada produced over \$200 million worth of gold, and at the same time the production of all minerals in Canada exceeded \$500 million.

In coming into confederation, therefore, Newfoundland is joining one of the great countries of the world, and with the new province we shall make a greater country still. To me it is a solemn occasion when I think that from 1864 to 1949, a period of over eighty years, many efforts have been made to make confederation complete. When this bill passes the house, as it will, confederation will be complete. As the years roll on, those who come after us will refer to that great year when the confederation of Canada was completed as the fathers of confederation visualized it in 1864 and 1867. We in this

[Mr. MacNicol.]

house will be off the scene at that time, but we will be remembered for our humble parts in bringing to pass what the fathers of confederation sought to accomplish.

A short time ago I came across a few lines which seem to suit what is running through my mind at the moment. I will quote them:

For the structure that we raise
Time is with materials filled.
Our todays and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

The blocks with which this structure has been built are the men who carried on the negotiations for union from 1864 onward, the fathers of confederation of those days, representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, and those who carried on the present negotiations. Down the years all these men were labouring to build this fine structure which has finally come to pass. Now we and our brothers in Newfoundland may look forward to the certainty of rising to even greater heights.

Today we add another 1,500 miles to our Atlantic front. A moment ago when the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) was giving the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) some admonitions with respect to his trip to Washington, I thought of something else the Prime Minister might take up when he is in the United States. I hesitate to mention it, and I do not suppose he would have time to do it anyway, but on some future occasion he might consider negotiating with the United States in an endeavour to bring in the panhandle which cuts five hundred miles off our western coast. That is something for the future. If it should ever come to pass, what a majestic country we would have from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

As a humble Canadian, Mr. Speaker, I am proud and happy that the vision which these great men have had all down the years, and which our present leaders have worked so hard to fulfil, at last has become a reality.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT

EXTENSION OF OPERATION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Agricultural Products Act to extend the operation of the act for a period of one year.

Mr. Graydon: I take it the minister will want to introduce this resolution with a somewhat comprehensive statement, and I suggest that the appropriate time to do so would be before Mr. Speaker leaves the chair, having