

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 9, 1949

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

IMMIGRATION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Cairine R. Wilson presented and moved concurrence in the second report of the Standing Committee on Immigration and Labour, as follows:

In connection with the order of reference of the 18th February, 1949, directing the committee to examine into the operation and administration of the Immigration Act, etc., the committee recommend that it be authorized to print 1,000 copies in English and 200 copies in French of its day to day proceedings, and that Rule 100 be suspended in relation to the said printing.

The motion was agreed to.

NEWFOUNDLAND-CANADA UNION BILL

INQUIRY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, last evening the right honourable gentleman from Vancouver Centre (Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) asked me whether I had received a report of the discussion in the Parliament of the United Kingdom as to the constitutional issues raised by the Newfoundland-Canada Union Bill. I am advised that during the second reading of the bill Mr. A. P. Herbert made a motion relating to the constitutional issues involved. Some discussion followed, and Mr. Herbert gave notice that he would raise those issues when the bill was considered in committee. For the information of my friend and other honourable senators, I would say that the Department of External Affairs receives the official report of the debates. I do not know that the supply is unlimited, but I am advised that a reasonable number of copies can be secured from that department as they arrive. I presume there is some slight delay in transmitting the copies.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Thank you.

NATIONAL PARKS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. Robertson moved the second reading of Bill O-2, an Act to amend The National Parks Act.

He said: Honourable senators, I have asked the honourable senator from Calgary to explain this bill.

Hon. George Henry Ross: Honourable senators, the southern half of the province of Alberta, particularly the city of Calgary and the surrounding country, is badly in need of power for industrial and domestic purposes. The Calgary Power Company is now supplying power, but cannot for long meet the demands made upon it unless the resources of Spray Lakes can be developed. The power company has made a deal with the province of Alberta, whereby it will develop this area if the province can effect a change in the boundaries of the Banff National Park to exclude 21.2 square miles which are necessary to carry out the development.

The purpose of this bill is to exclude this acreage from the park, and to turn it over to the province. The power company will then develop the project under its agreement with the province. I understand that when this bill has been given a second reading, the leader of the government intends to move that it be referred to one of the standing committees.

The Calgary Power Company, which supplies power to the city of Calgary, is now developing 110,000 horsepower from the Bow River and its tributaries; it also receives some steam-produced power from Edmonton. From the Spray Lakes project the company would develop an additional 90,000 horsepower.

Unless further power is developed in the very near future, Calgary is bound to experience a serious shortage of power. During the last week in February there was trouble with the power plant in Edmonton, so that the company did not receive its full quota from that source, with the result that the ammonia plant in Calgary, which is the largest producer of any commodity in the province of Alberta, received only 75 per cent of its requirements. In the same period the cement plant at Exshaw could obtain only 50 per cent of its requirements. A shut-down of the Exshaw plant, even for an hour, is a serious matter at this time when cement is so urgently needed for building and other purposes. In Calgary since the end of the war, new demands have increased the power load by approximately 9 per cent each year. If this rate of increase continues, the power company cannot hope to supply industrial requirements and domestic needs without the development of additional reserves.

When the natural resources were transferred to the province, it was agreed between the federal and provincial governments that certain areas of substantial commercial value would be excluded from the National Parks. Honourable Charles Stewart, who was Minister of the Interior when the legislation effecting the transfer was enacted, upon being