

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 16, 1949

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT
(NEWFOUNDLAND) BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Beauregard presented the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 12, an Act to amend the Statute Law.

He said: Honourable senators, the committee have, in obedience to the order of reference of March 8, 1949, examined the said bill, and now beg leave to report the same without any amendment.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: With leave of the Senate, now.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: Honourable senators, I was called out at the last moment from this morning's meeting of the Banking and Commerce Committee, which considered the Bankruptcy Act at considerable length.

I wonder if I might ask the chairman of the committee about the title of the bill now before us. I do this for purposes of information and not at all by way of criticism. I do not wish to enter into any argument at all, but it would appear to me, honourable senators, that a particular bill, dealing largely with the provisions of a particular agreement, should not be entitled "An Act to amend the Statute Law of Canada", because the statute law of Canada consists of more than a thousand statutes. I suppose the law officers could inform us why this appellation was given to the measure. It seems to me a most peculiar procedure to amend the entire statute law of Canada by a measure dealing with a particular agreement, the agreement between Canada and Newfoundland. There may be a very good reason for this, and my good friend the chairman of the committee (Hon. Mr. Beauregard), who is a lawyer, probably will be able to explain it.

Hon. Mr. Beauregard: The only answer I can give is to be found in section 1 of the bill itself, which reads:

This Act may be cited as the Statute Law Amendment (Newfoundland) Act.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: The short title is what?

Hon. Mr. Beauregard: That is what I have just been reading.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: The right title of the bill, as I understand it, is "An Act to amend the Statute Law of Canada".

Hon. Mr. Beauregard: Section 1 of the bill says:

This Act may be cited as the Statute Law Amendment (Newfoundland) Act.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: That is all right.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it your pleasure to adopt the motion for third reading of this bill?

Some Hon. Senators: Carried.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill read the third time.

Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie: On a question of privilege, I must object to saying that we are passing an Act to amend the Statute Law. I say it is not an Act to amend the Statute Law, but it is an Act to amend the Statute Law in certain particulars, with reference to the Newfoundland agreement. It should not be cited, as it has been by the Assistant Clerk, as an Act to amend the Statute Law of Canada. I wish to register my objection to that appellation.

The Hon. the Speaker: I did not understand that my right honourable friend wished to delay passage of the bill. The bill has been given third reading. Is it your pleasure, honourable senators to pass the bill?

The bill was passed.

PRIVATE BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Beauregard presented the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill L-2, an Act respecting the Pension Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal.

He said: Honourable senators, the committee have, in obedience to the order of reference of March 10, 1949, examined the said bill, and now beg leave to report the same without any amendment.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Hugessen moved the third reading of the bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

INQUIRY

Hon. Mr. Farris inquired of the government:

1. What was the cost of the Supreme Court Building?