

PENSIONS AND SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. J. H. KING (Minister of Pensions and National Health) moved:

That all matters connected with pensions and returned soldiers' problems be referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Adshead, Arthurs, Black (Yukon), Clark, Fiset, Gershaw, Hepburn, Ilsley, Manion, McGibbon, McIntosh, McPherson, McLean (Melfort), Power, Ross (Kingston), Sanderson, Speakman and Thorson, with power to call for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses under oath; and that special order 65 be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Lapointe the house adjourned at 10.40 p.m.

Tuesday, March 4, 1930

The house met at three o'clock.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) laid on the table copy of the agreement between the Dominion of Canada and the province of British Columbia with reference to the transfer of the railway belt and Peace River block.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) presented the report of the special committee appointed to prepare and report lists of members to compose the select standing committees of the house, as follows:

No. 1

ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Messieurs

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Beaubien, | Johnston (Long Lake), |
| Bell (St. Antoine), | Kellner, |
| Bennett, | Kennedy, |
| Bird, | King (Kootenay East), |
| Blatchford, | Lapointe, |
| Cannon, | McPhee, |
| Casgrain, | McQuarrie, |
| Clark, | MacDonald (Cape |
| Cotnam, | Breton South), |
| Duff, | Marcel, |
| Elliott, | Mercier (St. Henri), |
| Gott, | Ralston, |
| Gray, | Rhéaume, |
| Guthrie, | Young (Toronto |
| Hanson, | Northeast).—29. |
| Jacobs, | |

(Quorum 10)

No. 2

ON RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES

Messieurs

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Anderson (Toronto-
High Park), | Lacroix, |
| Bell (Hamilton West), | Lafamme, |
| Bell (St. Antoine), | Lapierre, |
| Bettez, | McIntosh, |
| Bissett, | McLean (Melfort), |
| Blatchford, | MacNutt, |
| Bothwell, | McQuarrie, |
| Bowman, | Macdonald (Kings), |
| Cahill, | MacLaren, |
| Cantley, | Mercier (Laurier-
Outremont), |
| Casgrain, | Milne, |
| Casselmann, | Morin, |
| Chevrier, | Parent, |
| Crerar, | Pouliot, |
| Dubuc, | Price, |
| Edwards (Waterloo
South), | Rennie, |
| Esling, | Ross (Kingston City), |
| Evans, | Ryerson, |
| Fansher (Lambton
East), | St-Père, |
| Fiset (Sir Eugène), | Sanderson, |
| Fraser, | Séguin, |
| Gardiner, | Simpson, |
| Geary, | Smith (Cumberland), |
| Gershaw, | Speakman, |
| Guérin, | Stewart (Leeds), |
| Heaps, | Telford, |
| Howden, | Tobin, |
| Jones, | Totzke, |
| Kennedy, | Vallance, |
| | White (London), |
| | Young |
| | (Saskatoon).—60. |

(Quorum 20)

No. 3

ON MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS

Messieurs

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adshead, | Luchkovich, |
| Anderson (Halton), | McGregor, |
| Baldwin, | McMillan, |
| Barber, | McPherson, |
| Blanchard, | Macdonald |
| Bock, | (Glengarry), |
| Boucher, | Maloney, |
| Bowen, | Mercier (Laurier-
Outremont), |
| Boys, | Murphy, |
| Brown, | Parent, |
| Cahan, | Pettit, |
| Cannon, | Robitaille, |
| Chaplin, | Sanderson, |
| Church, | Séguin, |
| Denis, | Sinclair (Wellington
North), |
| Descoteaux, | Smith (Stormont), |
| Deslauriers, | Spence, |
| Duff, | Stinson, |
| Dumaine, | Telford, |
| Embury, | Thompson, |
| Fansher (Lambton
East), | Tummon, |
| Glen, | Verville, |
| Hall, | Wilson (Wentworth), |
| Irvine, | Young |
| Kay, | (Saskatoon).—50. |
| Langlois, | |
| Letellier, | |

(Quorum 15)

are going to allow this state of things to continue, or whether we are going to get back to the accepted gold basis.

Mr. DUNNING: Mr. Speaker, what my hon. friend might argue as being the gold basis might not commend itself to the judgment of others in that regard. I can only answer as I did at the outset, that the statutes enacted by this parliament with respect to the currency are being complied with in every particular.

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. C. ROBINSON (West Essex): May I inquire, Mr. Speaker, of the acting Minister of Immigration (Mr. Stewart) regarding questions that are put to returning Canadians by officials of the Department of Immigration stationed at Windsor and Walkerville. These are the questions: 1, name; 2, residence; 3, birthplace; 4, citizenship; 5, occupation—height, eyes, complexion—6, hair; 7, marks; 8, name of employer; 9, business address. There are two other questions, but they apply to foreigners. The questions I have mentioned are required to be answered by Canadians residing in the border cities.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. gentleman should give notice of this question. It is too involved to be dealt with on the orders of the day.

Mr. ROBINSON: I simply wanted to ask the acting Minister of Immigration why these questions are put to Canadians working in Detroit and residing in Windsor. The immigration officers at Windsor and Walkerville are not able to give the reason why. I should like to know.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Acting Minister of Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will make inquiries and give my hon. friend an answer.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to bring in a measure to confirm the agreement between the governments of the Dominion and the province of Alberta, dated 14th December, 1929, respecting the transfer of the natural resources of Alberta.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Mr. BENNETT: I assume, Mr. Chairman, that the agreement will be attached as a schedule to the bill?

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. STEWART: Quite right.

Mr. BENNETT: In view of that circumstance, if it is agreeable to the administration we would reserve our discussion until after the bill is printed and let the resolution pass without further delay.

Mr. CHURCH: I think the committee are entitled to see the agreement in black and white. We do not know how the Privy Council will construe this agreement. We do not want any more agreements such as that made in 1905. I think before the committee is asked to pass this resolution we should have a copy of the agreement before us. Is Alberta to have a law of its own manufacture? Is it to be an extension of the act of 1905? It is well known that a clause was put in that act which was ultra vires of parliament. What kind of agreement is to be made with the province of Alberta in regard to its natural resources—its water-powers, its mines, its forests, its lands? What sort of an agreement is this anyway? I remember three or four years ago when I raised this question in the house, an election was pending, and all of a sudden the Minister of the Interior brought up the subject and announced that legislation would be brought into the house giving effect to an agreement. What happened? I had a resolution on the order paper and it was put at the foot of the list. The government of the day kept that resolution on the order paper for four or five months so that no one could ask any questions about it until the minister reintroduced it. The result was that no one in this house could do anything. I think, Mr. Speaker, every member of this house is entitled to see the agreement and to know what is in it. Is this the way parliament is going to pass agreements, without anyone seeing them? No member on the opposition side at least has ever seen this agreement, and we will be asked by our constituents, how did this agreement slip through the house?

Mr. BENNETT: An agreement was placed in the box of every member in the house.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): In order that the agreement might be in the hands of the members of the house, it was placed on the table of the house at least ten days ago. The agreement dealing with the return of natural resources to the province of Manitoba has also been placed on the table of the house for the information of the members, and I have to-day tabled the agreement between the Dominion government and the government of British Columbia for the return of the Peace River block and the railway belt, and I am sure my hon. friend cannot plead ignorance of what is in the agreements because they were tabled for that very purpose.

Mr. CAHAN: I asked the distribution office for copies of those agreements and was told that they were not available for distribution. I then wrote a note to the distribution office and told them I understood they were tabled and called attention to it, and the messenger came back and said that the clerk or someone in the distribution office told him that they were not available for distribution, and that is undoubtedly the reason why members on this side are asking for copies.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Mr. Chairman, I tabled a large number of copies, believing that they would be available for the members. I have done the same thing to-day. And may I say, for the information of the members of the house, that there are plenty of copies of the British Columbia agreement, and I hope every member will avail himself of the opportunity to secure a copy and becoming familiar with the agreement before the bill comes up in the house.

Mr. CAHAN: I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that when they are laid on the table of the house the only source of supply that we know of is the distribution office, and a certain number of copies should be put in the distribution office to meet the request of members.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I would like again to say to my hon. friend that I placed, I think, a sufficient number on the table for the purpose of distribution.

Mr. BENNETT: The difficulty is that they are laid on the table of the house and not sent to the distribution office. That is the real trouble.

Mr. HANSON: Why is it, Mr. Chairman, that important agreements like this are not mailed to every member of the house so that he may be able to get his copy? I had not heard that copies were laid on the table of the house. As a matter of fact, I have not seen one yet. When a document is laid on the table of the house there is such a noise going on around here that no one hears what the minister is mumbling over, and we cannot catch on to what has actually transpired.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HANSON: I am not saying that in any offensive spirit, but it is a fact.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): May I point out to my hon. friend that the records of the house are available to him just the same as to every other member, and every document that is tabled is recorded in the records.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Stewart (Edmonton) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 17, respecting the transfer of the natural resources of Alberta.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

AGREEMENT WITH MANITOBA

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to confirm the agreement between the governments of the Dominion and the province of Manitoba, dated 14th December, 1929, respecting the transfer of the natural resources of Manitoba.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Mr. BENNETT: I assume that in this case the agreement will be printed as a schedule in the bill, and that ample opportunity will be afforded to discuss the matter at length if we so desire, and with that understanding the resolution may be reported without further delay.

Mr. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I wish to object to this way of putting through a bill regarding the natural resources of a sister province. We are all familiar with the trouble they had in Manitoba a few years ago and we do not want to have this trouble break out again, and that is just what will happen with this parliament interfering with the problems of that province. Are we going to give the water powers of that province away to men like Mr. Backus and other American millionaires? Are we to sit here and allow this government to pass over the natural resources to the provincial government without uttering a word? I never received a copy of the agreement regarding either Alberta or Manitoba in my post office box. I sent down three times to the distribution office and they said they did not have them. Where is this all going to end? The province of Manitoba has been clamouring for years along certain lines. There have been elections held in that province regarding the public utilities of the province. Are we going to allow the present government in Manitoba to handle the natural resources of that province, with the possibility of handing over those natural resources, including of course the water powers, to every corporation that comes along, without any protection, without any strings on it, without any rider, or without a proper agreement? The smallest municipal council or township council does

not do business in that way. Even they would not pass this kind of an agreement. Are you sure that this parliament has the power? Are we sure we are acting within our powers and that this resolution is *intra vires* of this parliament? Some time ago the government met representatives of the province of Manitoba here in Ottawa; they returned home, then came to Ottawa again and some time later it was announced in all the papers that this agreement had been reached. Does any member of the house know what is provided for by this agreement? No; no one is supposed to know anything about it, and this just illustrates the decay of parliamentary institutions in Canada and the decline of the House of Commons. A resolution such as this would not have been passed in the early nineties without every section being debated, but now we are being asked to pass an agreement which will bind the Dominion for all time. We all know what was put over in this parliament in 1905 with regard to the Saskatchewan Act and the Alberta Act, and I should like to know if our friends from the prairie provinces are satisfied with this agreement.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sure.

Mr. CHURCH: Last year we had a lengthy debate with regard to the Seven Sisters falls; another conference was held, and as a result the Seven Sisters falls and the Beauharnois were given away. Dear knows what will happen if we still have another conference.

I protest against passing such a resolution as this. The minister easily could have had copies of this agreement distributed so that we might know what it contains. Is there anything secret in it? How many jokers are included? We all know that last year after a debate lasting five or six days the Seven Sisters falls were given away over the head of this parliament in order to please a few hungry political adventurers. Again I protest against passing such an important resolution in this haphazard manner.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Stewart (Edmonton) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 8, respecting the transfer of the natural resources of Manitoba.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. SPEAKER: When shall said bill be read a second time?

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the observations made by several hon. members of this house to the [Mr. Church.]

effect that the agreement has not been put in their hands, might it not be desirable to delay the second reading of this bill in order to give every member an opportunity to study the agreements and the schedules which are attached to the operative part of the measure?

Mr. SPEAKER: Next sitting of the house.

ALLOWANCES TO WAR VETERANS

ASSISTANCE TO PENSIONABLE AND NON-PENSIONABLE RETURNED SOLDIERS

Hon. J. H. KING (Minister of Pensions and National Health) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to bring in a measure respecting allowances to war veterans, to provide assistance for certain veterans who are not in receipt of pensions, or who, if in receipt of pensions, are only partially pensionable, or who are unemployable, and to provide for the administration, amounts, terms and conditions of such allowances, and for the payment of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps it might suit the convenience of the minister better if the Speaker leave the chair first, and then questions may be asked of and answered by the minister when we are in committee. I merely make this suggestion in order to expedite the business of the house.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, this will constitute an endeavour on the part of the government to meet an outstanding need in the lives of our veterans, which need has been recognized for some years but not provided for up to the present. I might direct the attention of the committee to the fact that in 1928 the committee on pensions and soldier problems included the following in their return to this house.

"Your committee finds that one of the most serious situations confronting the department and the country generally is that relating to the employment and care of ex-members of the forces suffering from disability, broken down or burned out. A number of suggestions have been made to your committee for dealing with such cases. The committee recommends information be gathered which will be of assistance in framing the government's policy. The committee consider this the most serious problem which has arisen in connection with our ex-soldiers."

Our present pension legislation is specifically designed to compensate veterans whose disa-