

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Perhaps my right hon. friend may wish to say something about the Military Convention on this motion.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I am satisfied with what I have said.

Motion agreed to.

FISHERY TREATY.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

For a copy of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States concerning fisheries between Canada and the United States.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It is impossible to bring down a copy of the treaty. It has not yet been made. Negotiations are still pending.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Dropped.

AMENDMENT OF PENITENTIARY ACT.

The Order of the day being called,

The Minister of Justice—In Committee of the Whole—The following proposed resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the Penitentiary Act, Chapter 147 of the Revised Statutes, and to provide that the Governor in Council may appoint a Superintendent of Penitentiaries, who shall be an officer of the Department of Justice, and superintend the administration and business of the penitentiaries, and who shall be paid a salary of four thousand dollars per annum; and three Inspectors of Penitentiaries who shall be classified as officers of the Department of Justice, in subdivision B of the First Division of the Civil Service, and shall each receive a minimum salary of twenty-five hundred dollars per annum.

Hon. Mr. DOHERTY: I beg to be allowed to drop this notice, as an error has crept in it as it is drawn, and, subject to renewing it in the correct form, it will be dropped.

Motion dropped.

DOMINION LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Minister of the Interior) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5 to amend the Dominion Lands Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Bill is to make a variety of amendments to the Dominion Lands Act. Some of the main amendments were before the House in a similar Bill which was introduced, but which did not secure the assent of Parliament, at the last session. When I make that statement I know that most of the hon. members present will understand the main purpose of the Bill. It provides facilities for pre-emption holders to obtain loans upon their pre-emptions prior to the issue of the patents. It provides in various ways for facilitating the working of the Act, but there is no clause in the Bill providing for

anything in the way of a fundamental, important or radical change. But, by way of explanation, I think it well to refer to a matter of some importance particularly to hon. members representing western constituencies. Mainly with a view to meeting the evident requirements of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, in connection with soldiers' settlement, it has been decided to withdraw entirely the privilege of the pre-emption of purchased homesteads. The clause of the Act which provides for the purchase of pre-emption homesteads will cease to have effect from and after tomorrow. From that time the privilege of free homesteading, or the privilege of taking land, will be confined to the ordinary homesteading right. It might also be added that this right is being substantially curtailed as well by a provision for the exclusion from its exercise of very considerable areas of western land within proximity to railways. This is being done at the request of the Soldiers' Settlement Board and under the provisions of the Act of last session establishing that Board.

Motion agreed to and Bill read the first time.

On motion of Sir Robert Borden, the House adjourned at 2.55 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 1918.

The House met at Three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS.

FIRST READING.

Bill No. 6, respecting The Burrard Inlet Tunnel and Bridge Company.—Mr. Stevens.

Bill No. 7, respecting The Canadian Indemnity Company.—Mr. Allen.

Bill No. 8, respecting The Cosmos Cotton Company.—Mr. Spinney.

Bill No. 9, respecting Fraser Lumber Company, Limited, and Fraser Companies, Limited.—Mr. Elkin.

Bill No. 10, to enable the Western Power Company of Canada, Limited, to own and operate the Railway of the Western Canada Power Company, Limited.—Mr. Stacey.

HON. SIR THOMAS WHITE.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AS TO HIS ABSENCE BECAUSE OF ILL-HEALTH.

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN: In reply to the question addressed to me yesterday by the leader of the Opposition, it is my duty, but with great regret, to inform the