

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT—REVISED EDITION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Speaker: HON. THOMAS SIMPSON SPROULE.

Wednesday March 31, 1915.

The House met at Eleven o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

QUESTIONS.

[Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.]

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

*Mr. MICHAUD:

1. Is it a fact that the Imperial Government has rendered compulsory in Great Britain since January last the use of the metric system of weights and measures for pharmaceutical preparations?

2. If so, what is the text of the Order in Council putting in force said change?

3. Does the Canadian Government intend to follow the example of the Imperial Government?

Mr. BLONDIN:

1. No. The use of the metric system is not compulsory in England, but simply legalized. Recently it has been adopted by the Druggists' Association as the most convenient.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. The metric system has the same status in Canada as in England. It is legalized after standards adopted by La Convention Internationale du Metre. The metric standards are kept by the Department of Inland Revenue.

MAPLE SUGAR AND SYRUP.

Mr. KAY:

1. Has the Government taken any steps to enforce the provisions of the Adulteration Act establishing standards for maple sugar and maple syrup, passed in June, 1914?

2. If not, is it the intention of the Government to take immediate action against infringements of this Act?

Mr. BLONDIN:

1. The Act passed in June, 1914, came into force only on the 1st January, 1915,

and as important amendments were to be made at the present session, it was deemed advisable to wait a little longer before making investigation as to whether it was complied with or not.

2. An amendment to the Adulteration Act is at present before Parliament. When this is sanctioned, steps will at once be taken to ascertain whether the Act is being complied with or not, and proceedings taken against any party violating the law.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY—EMPLOYEES AT CHAUDIERE.

Mr. BOURASSA:

1. Is the Government aware that a regulation is reported to have been passed by the management of the Intercolonial railway, to take effect on the 5th March, instant, in virtue of which the employees on the Intercolonial, working at Chaudière, have lost time marked, and are not paid for such lost time, when they arrive after the hour fixed by such regulation, even though such delay is due to the sub-train which carries them from Lévis to Chaudière?

2. Is the Government aware that, in virtue of the same regulation, these same employees are obliged to receive their cheques at the supplies department and to cross several tracks on which locomotives are constantly moving?

3. Does the Government intend to continue the said regulation in force?

Mr. CODERRE:

1. The same regulations are in force at Chaudière Junction as at other engine houses on the system. Employees arriving late on account of the train being delayed are allowed to commence work at once, and paid accordingly; those arriving late through their own fault are not permitted to commence work until the next hour.

2. The time office is in the stores building. There are three tracks between the stores building and the round house which it is necessary for the men to cross. The movement over these tracks is not extensive and is slow, and necessary precautions are being taken to protect the men. This is only a temporary arrangement pending the installation of a time clock in the machine shop.

3. Yes.