

Privilege—Mr. Boulanger

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I wish the minister would let us have that statement to read. I do not know whether anybody understood it or not; I know I did not.

Mr. BENNETT: It will be in Hansard.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): It is about as clear as many of the pension sections.

Mr. BENNETT: In view of the fact that this affords an opportunity of discussion which otherwise might not arise, and as the memorandum will be in Hansard—

Mr. MALCOLM: The bill will be printed.

Mr. BENNETT: The bill will follow the usual technical drafting.

Mr. MALCOLM: The memorandum that I have read is printed as an explanatory note to the bill.

Mr. BENNETT: That does not afford the same opportunity for discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution carry?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No; it is eleven o'clock.

Mr. BENNETT: Several members desire to discuss it.

Mr. MALCOLM: It is very simple when you read it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It might be taken up to-morrow.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, and we can expedite the first and second reading.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Tuesday, March 25, 1930

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVILEGE—Mr. BOULANGER

Mr. OSCAR BOULANGER (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. On Friday last I had the honour of introducing in this house a bill to amend the Civil Service Act. Now I find that the press has badly misrepresented the objects of the bill. For instance, my attention has been directed to an article which appeared in the Ottawa Evening Journal of last evening, reading as follows:

It should not take the House of Commons very long to kill the bill sponsored by Oscar Boulanger, K.C., Liberal member for Bellechasse, to amend the Civil Service Act to restrict the preference now given to war

[Mr. Malcolm.]

veterans in appointments to the government service to those veterans who were born in Canada. Such an amendment would exclude, for instance, about two-thirds of the members of the first division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who made such a name for Canada by their heroic stand at the historic second battle of Ypres, and thus set the standard of valour for the whole of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The bill which I had the honour to introduce does not restrict the preference to Canadian-born veterans; the bill states that we want this preference restricted to Canadian nationals. Everyone knows that the nationals of a country include not only native-born citizens but also citizens of adoption. The words "Canadian nationals" have been defined in chapter 21 of the revised statutes of Canada, as follows:

The following persons are Canadian nationals:

(a) Any British subject who is a Canadian citizen within the meaning of the Immigration Act;

(b) The wife of any such citizen;

(c) Any person born out of Canada, whose father was a Canadian national at the time of that person's birth, or with regard to persons born before the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, any person whose father at the time of such birth, possessed all the qualifications of a Canadian national, as defined in this act.

If we refer to the Immigration Act, which is chapter 93 of the revised statutes, we find "Canadian citizen" defined in section 2 as follows:

"Canadian citizen" means

(i) A person born in Canada who has not become an alien;

(ii) A British subject who has Canadian domicile; or

(iii) A person naturalized under the laws of Canada who has not subsequently become an alien or lost Canadian domicile.

THE I'M ALONE CASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. FINLAY MacDONALD (Cape Breton South): I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister if he is in a position to-day to give us any further information with regard to the I'm Alone incident.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I am sorry to say that I am not in a position to do so.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South): When may we expect this information?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not know what information I could give my hon. friend beyond the fact that the matter is sub judice at the present time. I cannot say when the various counsel will get through discussing the matter.