

MOTION FOR PAPERS

SAPPER HARRY BROWN

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River) moved:

For copy of all correspondence, documents, medical reports and findings in respect of Sapper Harry Brown, Reg. No. 2503424—Pension No. 114467.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have access to the information asked for in this motion, and I ask that it be dropped from the order paper.

Motion dropped.

FARM RELIEF

DISTRIBUTION AND INSPECTION OF SEED GRAIN IN SASKATCHEWAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. F. TOTZKE (Humboldt): I should like to direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Prime Minister, a question based on a press dispatch dated at Regina, March 21, reading:

Seed grain delivered to farmers in the drought area by the Saskatchewan Relief Commission will be inspected by ten or twelve experienced grain inspectors loaned for two weeks by the federal department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, from the Winnipeg inspection point. They will start Monday.

The drought area will be divided into districts and each will be in charge of one of the inspectors. Distribution of seed grain will be conducted at all points in the drought area, and farmers are urged to take delivery of their seed just as soon as possible.

Will the government confirm this report and give assurance that the farmers are now receiving seed grain?

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): A request was made by the government of Saskatchewan for the cooperation of the experienced inspectors of the Board of Grain Commissioners. The Department of Trade and Commerce very readily acceded to the request and instructed those inspectors to render every possible cooperation.

As regards the latter part of the dispatch, the grain now being distributed—I am at present speaking from what information I have at hand—is grain that was provided for prior to a week ago. It is hoped that as soon as the measure before the house is passed, the Saskatchewan government, with the assistance of the federal government, will be in a position to complete the quantity of grain required and to make the necessary distribution in time. That depends, however, upon the final disposition of the resolution and the motion before the house.

[Mr. Brassett.]

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Melville): May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce: has no one at all on behalf of the government as yet purchased the necessary seed grain for the west?

Mr. STEVENS: I gave all the information that I had at hand.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It was no answer.

Mr. STEVENS: That is my hon. friend's opinion.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: As a matter of fact the seed grain is already purchased.

PRIVILEGE—MR. HOWARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CHARLES B. HOWARD (Sherbrooke): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker: last night in speaking in the house, I made this statement as reported on page 1484 of unrevised Hansard:

The Prime Minister said time and again, in interviews throughout the country, that we were not off the gold standard nor would we go off it.

The Prime Minister immediately rose and denied the statement. I amended the statement as shown in the same page of Hansard:

That has been published in the newspapers throughout Canada.

The Prime Minister again denied it. In the Ottawa Journal of October 5, 1931, this statement appears in big headlines:

Premier Bennett declares Canada is not abandoning the gold standard.

In the Ottawa Journal, which is his own newspaper, a Conservative paper, of December 15, 1931, this statement appears:

Premier Bennett denies dominion off gold standard.

The Toronto Financial Post, October 3, 1931, in its editorial column on the front page, headed "The Nation's Business," speaking of Mr. Bennett, has this to say:

On the eve of Britain's suspension of gold payments Mr. Bennett announced that Canada was on a gold basis and intended to stay there.

Again, in the Ottawa Journal of September 21, 1931, this statement appears—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has gone far enough. He is elaborating his speech of yesterday, quoting from newspapers, reports of news of the day. As I understand the matter, this constitutes no question of privilege. The hon. member stated his position yesterday. That is enough and does not allow him to continue his speech to-day.

Mr. HOWARD: I have received from the man who made the statement, a denial of it.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND FARM RELIEF

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OPERATION OF ACT FOR TWO MONTHS

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 22, consideration of the motion of the Prime Minister that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to resolve itself into committee of the whole on the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to introduce a bill to amend chapter 58 of the statutes of Canada, 1931, striking out the word "March" in section 8, and substituting the word "May" therefor.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the warmth of the greeting which has just been extended is not directed to me personally but to the fact that the Conservative candidate has succeeded in being elected in the Athabaska by-election by a majority of upwards of 300 in a constituency in which a Conservative candidate has not run for ten years. It at least indicates that there is some support for the administration outside of this house, and in the house itself its support is quite ample for all purposes that may be required. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a lack of knowledge on the part of those who sit to your left that there has been an election and that they are no longer in control of the House of Commons. They seem to think that they can dictate legislation and that they are to be dictators while they talk about the autocracy of others. I think I need hardly say, Mr. Speaker, that, under our institutions, minorities do not govern and that the basis of all parliamentary institutions is the rule of the majority. But unfortunately some people are very poor losers, and they cannot for a moment contemplate the possibility of the parliament of Canada being conducted unless they themselves direct it, and failing to direct it from a majority they assume that they may do so with a noisy minority. I think probably it might be well to remind them that parliamentary institutions are based upon an entirely different assumption. The gentleman who for so many years presided at the table in the mother of parliaments wrote a book from which I shall read just a few lines, namely, Redlich's Procedure of the House of Commons, as the outstanding authority upon the subject. Reading from the third volume of that work, page 196, I shall now give a description of what has transpired in this house during the last ten days:

Focussing once more the results of our retrospect we may arrive at certain important conclusions which will be useful in the search for a solution of the problem set before us.

Mr. SPEAKER: Even so, that is no question of privilege entitling the hon. member to elaborate what he said yesterday. If he had been misquoted, it would be quite right for him to point out the mistake, but it is not in order for him to continue his speech.

Mr. HOWARD: It is a question of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not.

Mr. HOWARD: In my constituency they will wonder why the Prime Minister denied the statement. The last quotation is this: "What Great Britain may do is for the government of Great Britain to determine," said Mr. Bennett. "As for Canada we propose to maintain the gold standard."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

CANADIAN DESTROYER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): A few weeks ago I had occasion to ask the Minister of National Defence with regard to the activities of our fleet in Salvador. I notice, according to today's dispatch from the Port of Spain, Trinidad, that a boat crew from the Canadian destroyer Champlain quelled a riot there. May I ask what our fleet is doing in quelling riots down in Trinidad?

Hon. D. M. SUTHERLAND (Minister of National Defence): The destroyer was down there in the course of her usual winter cruise. The department has not as yet had any definite report as to the incident mentioned by the hon. member.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY RESPECTING QUESTION ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): May I direct the attention of whoever is responsible to the fact that question No. 3 on to-day's order paper stands in my name. I did not hand in any such question to be put on the order paper, and I do not know who is responsible for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question will be dropped.

Mr. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): Question No. 3 is mine. I do not know how it was put under the name of the hon. member for Bow River. I do not want him to drop it. I would ask that it be placed on the order paper in my name.

An hon. MEMBER: It has already been answered.

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