

PRIVATE BILLS

SENATE BILLS—FIRST READINGS

Bill No. 36 for the relief of Adelaide Margaret Munn Bain.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 37 for the relief of Gwendolyn Beulah Russell Denefeld.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 38 for the relief of Miriam Salomon Starr.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 39 for the relief of Laura Krause Suffrin.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 40 for the relief of Jean Fullarton Craig Walker.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 41 for the relief of William Hesketh.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 42 for the relief of Janet Alice Smith Bennett.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 43 for the relief of Gwendoline Elizabeth Hunt Edmund.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 44 for the relief of Reta Mabel Welch Gilbert.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 45 for the relief of Leah Shrimmer Schanker.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 46 for the relief of Doris Mary Stratton Stuart.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 48 to incorporate National General Insurance Company.—Mr. Benidickson.

Bill No. 49 respecting The Eastern Trust Company.—Mr. Isnor.

Bill No. 50 respecting The Ruthenian Catholic Mission of the Order of Saint Basil the Great in Canada.—Mr. Hlynka.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT

PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEES' PENSIONS, MINIMUM PRICE ON WHEAT DELIVERIES, ETC.

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, to authorize the board to provide pensions for members, officers and employees and to make provision for the increase of the fixed minimum price on wheat deliveries; to extend the control of inter-provincial movements of wheat products and to empower the governor in council to extend the present system to oats or barley.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSING

INQUIRY AS TO RENTAL CEILING INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DONALD M. FLEMING (Eglinton): May I ask the Minister of Finance whether

there is any truth in the statement in the press that the government is contemplating an increase in the present ceiling on housing accommodation?

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): Obviously the question is one of government policy, which will be announced in due course.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS IN HALIFAX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CLARENCE GILLIS (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour of which I have given him notice? The radio this morning announced that there were 7,500 unemployed in the city of Halifax, with a possible layoff of 2,000 more within the month. Has the minister been advised of this? Is his department taking any steps with regard to employment or relief measures in that city, and has he checked with the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Isnor), who might have a solution?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the employment situation in certain sections of the maritimes, including Cape Breton, New Glasgow and Halifax, has been receiving special attention for several weeks past. The situation at Halifax has considerably worsened in the last few days on account of the sudden drop in shipping.

The rather unfavourable situation in the maritimes is explained by a number of circumstances. The freight traffic through the maritime ports has reached an all-time low since before the war.

Mr. FRASER: That is government policy for you.

Mr. MITCHELL: I shall not say what I might have said. The cut of logs for lumber has been lighter this year and lumbermen have not been in as great demand as heretofore. Shortages of material, especially steel, have affected work in the shipyards and lay-offs have occurred. Other industries have also had to curtail on account of the shortage of material. On Saturday the Halifax shipyards laid off 300 men. For the first time since the war the textile plants report sufficient staff and there are no vacancies other than for skilled workers.

With regard to the immediate situation in Halifax city and county I was advised at noon today that there were registered in our Halifax office a total of 4,187 men and