

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 21, 1959

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. W. M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, I table the following reports:

Report of the Department of Public Works, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1958, pursuant to section 34 of the Public Works Act, Chapter 228, R.S. 1952. (English text).

Preliminary Report of the Fraser River Board on Flood Control and Hydro-Electric Power in the Fraser River Basin, submitted as of October 31, 1958, to the Government of Canada and of the Province of British Columbia. (English text).

Report of Tariff Board, relative to the investigation ordered by the Minister of Finance, arising out of various requests made to him by the producers in Canada of waterproof footwear and rubber-soled canvas footwear (being Reference No. 121) (English and French texts), together with transcript of the evidence presented at public hearings (English text), pursuant to section 6 of the Tariff Board Act, Chapter 261, R.S. 1952.

Report of the Tariff Board, relative to the investigation ordered by the Minister of Finance respecting fluorspar (being Reference No. 126) (English and French texts), together with transcript of the evidence presented at the public hearings (English text), pursuant to section 6 of the Tariff Board Act, Chapter 261, R.S. 1952.

DIVORCE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, presented the first report of the Standing Committee on Divorce.

The report was read by the Clerk Assistant as follows:

The Standing Committee on Divorce make their first report as follows:

1. Your committee recommend that they be granted leave to sit during adjournments of the Senate, and also during sittings of the Senate.

2. Your committee also recommend that they be granted authority to appoint as many subcommittees as deemed necessary for the purpose of considering such divorce matters as may be referred to them by the committee and to set the quorum thereof, the subcommittee in each case to report their findings to the committee.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: With the consent of the Senate I move, seconded by the Honourable Senator Croll, that the report be adopted now.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE
ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Arthur M. Pearson moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, it gives me a great deal of pleasure and I feel honoured in being given the opportunity by the Leader of the Senate and members of the Senate to move the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

I would like to refer to the round-the-world trip of the Prime Minister to meet the heads of the commonwealth countries, and I am sure everyone will feel that, coupled with the trip made by the previous Prime Minister, great benefit will come to Canada and the empire. I foresee a time in the not too distant future, when, through our common ties to the Crown, the empire will become the third major power in the world; first, especially if the countries of the empire unite in a common effort to develop and make use of all the scientific ideas which are coming to the fore so rapidly. Each of the two great powers that we see—the United States to the south of us and the Soviet Union to the north—is a vast bloc with a tremendous concentration of wealth in one area. In this way they are able to develop these new ideas of missiles, sputniks and so forth. But, honourable senators, if the countries of our British Empire were to unite in their scientific ideas and develop these things as a unit—if they were to work together, each sharing the cost, I believe that this empire would do just as well as these other two great nations. Secondly, the convertibility of funds by Great Britain indicates that the sterling area is now in a position to consider an easier flow of trade among all parts of the empire. Both these things—the sharing of scientific ideas and the better flow of trade—should very quickly add to the wealth and power of the Commonwealth.

Prior to the two great wars most countries in the world looked to the United Kingdom