

with reference to some legislation respecting pensions and I think it would be just as well for the House to suspend its sitting for ten or fifteen minutes until that report is received.

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is suspended for a quarter of an hour.

Mr. GOULD: If I may be permitted to ask just a brief question,—will the Prime Minister say what the probable date will be of the next meeting of parliament?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The sitting is suspended.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is only a suggestion. With reference to the question I put this morning about 6.30 to the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, as to whether the government had not taken a different stand in the House of Commons to what it took in the other House regarding the Pensions bill, I would ask the minister to read as they appear recorded the utterances in the other House by the member of the Senate who represents the government and leads its forces in that chamber. This substantiates to the full what I stated yesterday, and even more. It seems strange that the government should take one stand in this House and a totally different stand in the Senate.

Mr. BELAND: I will read the debate in the Upper Chamber in due course. I am not particularly concerned about what an individual member of the Senate may say or may do.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am referring to a member of the government.

Mr. BELAND: I am not particularly interested in what an individual member of the Senate may say; I am concerned with the action taken by the Senate as a body.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What can the hon. member expect if the government leader there virtually requests them to take it?

Mr. BELAND: The government leader may be powerless in the Senate on any question.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The trouble is he was all-powerful; he had his way.

Mr. BELAND: As I understand it, the reasons invoked by the Senate for interfering substantially with the bill that was passed by this House is that they were not aware that a special report had been presented to [Mr. Mackenzie King]

the House; that a prolonged inquiry had been made by a special committee of this House on the subject. However, we will see what the Senate says in regard to the message we sent to them early this morning, and then we will decide what action we should take.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF CABINET MINISTERS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): During the discussion of the estimates this morning there was an item that referred to the passage of my right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) from Liverpool to New York, and I intimated that the government had been asked payment of the account, as it related to expenses that had been incurred but had not been paid. That was not through any neglect on the part of my right hon. friend or his secretary, but simply through the circumstances that he had evidently assumed the account had been paid by some one else. However, this bill came to us for payment. I said to my right hon. friend that we had a letter from him admitting the fact. He said he doubted that and asked to be shown the letter.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the right hon. gentleman read the letter? I have no objection.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

OTTAWA, July 6, 1923.

Sir JOSEPH POPE,
Under-Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir JOSEPH,—

I have your letter of May 30th regarding charges for passage from Liverpool to New York in July, 1918, for myself and private secretary.

I understand that passages were arranged through the Admiralty Board, and it was presumed that charges were being absorbed by them. Mr. Garland, who was my secretary at that time and who had charge of such details, assures me that no payment was made by him at the time, and of course the item was not included in the statement of expenses.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR MEIGHEN.

I think that bears out what I said.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the letter was prepared for me by the same secretary, and I signed it. I have not even any recollection of what is in the letter. I have no doubt it is perfectly correct.

RETURNS

VOLUMINOUS, EXPENSIVE—STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Hon. A. B. COPP (Secretary of State): With reference to the bringing down of returns and the comments made in that connection, while