

a police magistrate, a stipendiary magistrate, or any person having the power or authority of two or more justices of the peace, having jurisdiction in such district, county or place.

The amendment is in the exact words of the interpretation section of the criminal code.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

MILITIA PENSION ACT

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Minister of National Defence) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, to amend the Militia Pension Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The intention of the amendment is to withdraw section 32 of the act and enact a new section 41 so that payments of arrears shall be made in monthly instalments, the previous custom of making payments in lump sums in advance being eliminated.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. J. K. BLAIR (Wellington North): moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 6, to amend the criminal code (death penalty).

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CUBAN DUTY ON SEED POTATOES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. BROOKS (Royal): I should like to direct a question to the acting Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Rogers) respecting the recent duty of \$10 per barrel imposed by the Cuban government upon Canadian certified seed potatoes. This duty, as the government realizes, is absolutely prohibitive and is a serious blow to the exporters of seed potatoes in the maritimes. I should like to know whether the government has made any representations to the Cuban government with the object of having the duty either removed or lowered.

Hon. NORMAN McL. ROGERS (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): I had not received notice of my hon. friend's intention to ask this question. I shall be glad to secure the information if possible and give it to him at the earliest opportunity.

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GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. N. A. McLARTY AND SECONDED BY MR. C. J. VENIOT

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. N. A. McLARTY (Essex West) 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 Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

May it Please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons 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: The speech from the throne, sir, quite naturally makes reference to the advent of His Majesty to the throne of the British commonwealth of nations. May I add to these words, so expressive of our deep and abiding loyalty, a few words indicative of our good wishes to our sovereign lord King George VI and to Her gracious Majesty the Queen. May they long be spared to occupy with dignity and grace the throne of this the greatest of all commonwealths since the world began.

I feel, sir, that our thoughts with respect to the monarchy have been most aptly expressed by His Excellency, who two years ago said:

In the last two hundred years, while the throne has lost in definable powers it has gained in significance. It is not only higher than any other human estate but of a different kind from any other, for it is the mystical indivisible centre of national union. It is the point around which coheres the nation's sense of a continuing personality. In any deep stirring of heart, the people turn from the mechanism of government, which is their own handiwork and their servant, to that ancient abiding thing behind the government, which they feel to be a symbol of their best achievement and their future hope.

I should like at this time to express to the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) my appreciation of the honour which he has conferred upon me in asking me to move this resolution this afternoon. I should like also to assure him and his colleagues that the good people of the constituency of