

Budget Changes

tion for one year. Mr. Greenfield further stated:

I am writing to urge upon you the desirability of the federal government passing the necessary order in council extending the federal legislation for a like period.

The resolution referred to was an expression of opinion of the legislature that:

The government should continue the negotiations carried on last year with the governments of the Dominion of Canada and the province of Saskatchewan, for the establishment of a wheat board, and that every effort should be made this year by the said governments, together with the government of the province of Manitoba, if that government passed the necessary legislation, to establish such a board in time to handle the crop of 1923.

In accordance with the above notification, the Canadian government passed two orders in council on the 7th April, 1923, that is to say, P.C. 610 and P.C. 611. The first order in council referred to ordered that the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1922, be brought into operation as provided by section 19 thereof; the second order in council referred to ordered that the operation of the said act for all purposes be extended for one year from the 15th of August, 1923.

BUDGET CHANGES

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance): I purpose laying on the table of the House notice of several changes in the budget resolutions. They will reach the members in the Votes and Proceedings in the morning; but perhaps the House will be pleased if I state at once, without comment, the nature of the principal changes. If there be no objection, I will do so.

In the resolutions as they stand the change in connection with the sales tax is to take effect on the first of August. We have decided to make the date January 1, 1924, inasmuch as it will cover existing contracts and avoid embarrassment which might otherwise arise.

According to the resolutions before the House, the tax on beverages and also the tax on confectionery would be abolished on the first of August. We propose that the abolition shall take effect practically at once, on the first day of June.

There is a readjustment of the silk duties, the details of which I need not mention.

The item of newsprint is omitted from the exemptions to the sales tax. There was a misunderstanding; this was not asked for by anybody, and it was inserted for customs purposes. But at all events we are not pressing it.

Another item I might mention is with regard to what is called the dumping duty on [Mr. Robb.]

sugar. The resolutions as they stand provide that the dumping duty shall not apply when sugar reaches a certain price, eight cents per pound. We are proposing to make a limitation; we propose that the dumping duty shall continue, but that it shall be limited; that at no time shall it exceed three-quarters of a cent per pound.

I think those are all the matters of sufficient importance to speak of now. The details will appear in the Votes and Proceedings in the morning. In the meantime, I will give copies to my hon. friends opposite.

Mr. STANSELL: Does the tax exemption as applied to drain tiles apply at once?

Mr. FIELDING: I would prefer that the hon. member should read the resolution in the morning. The idea is that it is to come into effect at an early date, I forget the date.

OLD AGE PENSIONS AND MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. L. H. MARTELL (Hants): Have any negotiations been carried on by this government with the governments of the various provinces for the purpose of arranging for conferences between the provincial and the federal authorities in the matter of old age pensions and mothers' allowances?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): My impression is that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock) had a conference last fall with representatives of the Labour departments of the provincial governments, in the course of which conference a number of matters relating to the question to which my hon. friend refers, were discussed. I cannot say at the moment what further conference there has been, but I know that the matter has been the subject of conference between the provincial governments and our own.

THE BUDGET**CONCLUSION OF DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The House resumed from Tuesday, May 22, the debate on the motion of Hon. W. S. Fielding (Minister of Finance), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into Committee of Ways and Means, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Robert Forke.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister