

Auditor General's Report

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to lay before the house the report of the joint librarians of parliament.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 4.25 p.m.

Friday, January 28, 1938

The house met at three o'clock.

VACANCY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a communication from two members, notifying me that the following vacancy has occurred in the representation, viz:

Of William Samuel Hall, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Edmonton East, by decease. I accordingly issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct attention to the fact that climatic conditions in that part of the country are such that a winter election may be and in fact is an almost impossible task, and I hope that a date will be fixed that will make it possible, at least, for the will of the electors to be registered.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I might say to my right hon. friend that the government will take note of what he has just said. We have, in fact, considered the matter already.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I desire to lay on the table two copies in English and two in French, of the summary of proceedings of the imperial conference, 1937. Copies of the summary will be made available to the members of parliament through the distribution office of the House of Commons.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TABLED BY MR. DUNNING—QUESTION OF REFERENCE TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report of the Auditor General, volumes I and II, for the year ended March 31, 1937.—Mr. Dunning.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it was the custom in this house for many years, when tabling the report of the Auditor General, to move that it be referred to the public accounts committee; but when large numbers of reports were tabled that was for some reason overlooked on one occasion, and it continued to be overlooked except on one or two occasions. If the minister will look at the matter I think he will find that the correct practice is as I have indicated. Possibly it might be better for him to look into it and make a motion, if he so desires, on Monday. I suggest it is the regular practice that should be followed with respect to the Auditor General's report.

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance): My recollection is that last year, on a subsequent occasion, after the setting up of the public accounts committee, I made the motion referred to by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett). I shall be glad, however, to look into the matter.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since we last assembled here no fewer than six of our number have been removed by the hand of death. Three of the hon. members were supporters of the government; two hon. members, each a former minister of the crown, were members of the official opposition, and one hon. member belonged to the Social Credit party. This, I believe, is in the history of our parliament the largest number of deaths which have taken place, at any time, in the recess between the prorogation of one session and the opening of the next. It, undoubtedly, is accounted for, in part by the fact that the recent recess has been somewhat longer than the average. No fewer than three of the deaths have occurred in the present month.

It will I know accord with the feelings of all who shared the proceedings of the previous sessions if, before entering upon the work of this session, some expression is given to the loss which this house has sustained in its membership and some slight tribute paid to the memory of those whose lives and public services have been brought to a close, and who are so much in our thoughts at the present time.

The hon. members who have been taken from us, and the constituencies they represented, were: Mr. Daniel A. Cameron, Cape Breton North-Victoria, whose death occurred on September 4, 1937; the Hon. Doctor Simon