

## FOOD AND DRUGS BILL

## SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 70, an Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time, and referred to the Standing Committee on Public Health and Inspection of Foods.

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE BILL

## SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 95, an Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time, and referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

## SPECIAL WAR REVENUE BILL

## SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 97, an Act to amend the Special War Revenue Act.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

## REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This is the first time for such a bill to leave this House to go to a standing committee.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It does not leave the House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It goes to a standing committee.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Well, it contains almost innumerable details. I have very little faith in the thoroughness of the review of such a bill by Committee of the Whole. There would be no objection to the Bill going before Committee of the Whole when it comes back to the House, but it does seem to me that if the standing committee considers it first we shall have a better Bill. If it were a very short bill it might as well be dealt with here, but this is a lengthy one.

The motion was agreed to.

## CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

## SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 98, an Act to amend the Customs Tariff.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

## CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Right Hon. Mr. Meighen, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Donnelly in the Chair.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This Bill contains only six clauses; but there are many changes. It is a Bill to which very little could be done by a special committee.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—tea:

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This clause provides that in the estimation of ad valorem in respect of tea purchased in bond in the United Kingdom, the present duties on tea entering the United Kingdom shall not be included.

Section 2 was agreed to.

Section 3 was agreed to.

On section 4—schedule B amended:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Before we pass this clause would the right honourable gentleman explain generally what has actuated the Government in making the various changes in schedule A? They are mainly technical. I confess that I can throw no light on the value of the policy of altering that schedule, but there may be a guiding principle behind the proposed changes.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I have studied the debate which took place in the House of Commons, and I must say that I do not see any principle at all inherent in the amendments. There is no change of policy, but merely a correction or readjustment of duty, and, according to my information, it is mainly downward.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Are the changes consequential on the Ottawa agreements?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: They would seem to be, because the number of items that are "free" under the British preferential tariff is very great; in fact, the word "free" is all but universal throughout the schedule. I think the multiplied presence of that word would recommend this measure to the most extreme free-trader in the House.