

and I should like it to go to committee. We have promised certain representatives of the financial interests that it would go to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, although it is a public Act. Therefore I should like to suspend the rule when it comes up, in order to speed its stages.

The motion stands.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY ACQUISITION BILL.

FIRST READING.

Bill 125, an Act providing for the acquisition by His Majesty of the capital stock of the Canadian Northern Railway Company.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

MILITARY VOTERS BILL.

FIRST READING.

Bill 127, the Military Voters Act, 1917.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

ALLEGED RETIREMENT OF HON. SENATOR LA RIVIÈRE.

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I wish to draw the attention of the honourable leader of the Government to an item that appeared in the Ottawa Journal-Press of August 31st last, which reads as follows:

Hon. La Rivière leaving the Senate.

Hon. A. A. C. La Rivière, the first senator appointed by Sir Robert Borden after he came into office in 1911, and for many years one of most prominent figures in the public life of Manitoba, has resigned, and it is probable that he will be succeeded by Mr. Aimé Bernard, Conservative member of the Manitoba legislature.

Mr. La Rivière has become tired of parliamentary life and now prefers the quietude of his home in St. Boniface.

The ex-senator is a native of Montreal, where he was born in 1842, but he moved to Manitoba in 1871. He was elected for St. Boniface in the local legislature a few years later, and in 1881 was appointed provincial secretary. Subsequently he held other portfolios, and in 1889 was elected to the Federal Parliament for Provencher. He represented that constituency until 1904.

It looks as if there had been some arrangement made between Mr. Aimé Bernard and Senator La Rivière in this matter that Mr. Aimé Bernard is to succeed him. I do not know whether the leader of the Government has any information that he can give the Senate, as to whether it is understood that Mr. Bernard is to succeed the Hon. Mr. La Rivière?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

Hon. Mr. JAMES LOUGHEED: I cannot give my honourable friend any information on that subject whatsoever.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I am not surprised.

INCOME WAR TAX BILL.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into committee on Bill 117, an Act to authorize the levying of a War Tax upon certain Incomes. Hon. Mr. Sproule in the Chair.

On section 1—title:

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: Mr. Chairman, would it not be well at this stage of the proceedings for you to decide whether it is competent for the Senate to consider or to attempt to amend or alter this Bill? Some honourable gentlemen are of opinion that the Senate has no right to interfere with a tax being given to the King by the House of Commons. Others are of opinion that the Senate cannot consider or take part in this matter. Would it not be advantageous, before consuming time, that that question should be decided by you?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I think the proposition made by the honourable senator from Halifax is quite in order, not only from his personal point of view, but also in keeping with the constitution governing the proceedings of this honourable House and those of the popular House. I dislike to be a party to a lottery; but when a tax Bill comes down to the Senate from the House of Commons we can do only one of two things—either adopt the measure en bloc or throw it out en bloc. To my mind, whoever drafted the constitution giving the Senate powers of legislation and powers of consultation were very remiss. What is the use of this honourable House discussing the provisions of this Act if we cannot amend it? There is no use. There may be some use in giving the country our ideas and counsel in the matter, but under the constitution we have absolutely no right to amend a money Bill coming from the House of Commons. That is our position under the constitution and by parliamentary practice. We are put out of business. We can criticise, but of what use is criticism unless we can bring forth an amendment? I have been ruled out dozens of times by this House on that point. I consider that this honourable committee would be wasting time in discussing the provisions of this Act if it has no power to amend it. You,