

THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, February 24, 1921.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT STATISTICS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. DAVID inquired:

1. How many soldiers have taken advantage of the offer made by the Government to induce them to settle upon land, and how much has been spent to that end?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED:

1. 58,276 returned soldiers have made application for qualification under the Soldier Settlement Act to January 31, 1921. 781 are now in training. 1,753 have been trained by the Board. 20,215 loans have been approved to January 22nd, 1921, for \$81,889,732. \$69,199,925.04 has been spent to January 31st, 1921.

POSITION OF MR. ALBERT BENOIT.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS inquired:

1. Is Mr. Albert Benoit one of the translators of the Senate staff?

2. If so, what annual salary does he receive as such?

3. Is it true that the same Albert Benoit, in spite of the fact that he is paid for the whole year, is acting as private secretary to the Hon. Mr. Taschereau, the Quebec Premier, and that he acted as private secretary to the Lieut. Governor of Quebec the year before?

The Hon. the SPEAKER:

1. Yes.
2. \$2,300.
3. No information.

INCOME TAX COLLECTION.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

Hon. Mr. DAVID moved:

That an Order of the Senate do issue for a statement showing what amounts have been collected in the different provinces of Canada out of the Income Tax of last year, 1920, and how much has been paid by the farmers in each of the said provinces.

The motion was agreed to.

HALIFAX AS A REGISTRATION PORT.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. A. B. CROSBY: Honourable gentlemen, there is a matter of importance that I would like to bring before this House. I

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notice in this morning's Citizen a statement which appears to have been made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I do not know whether it is correct or not, but I desire to bring it to the attention of the House and of the honourable leader of the Government in the Senate. The statement is as follows:

Halifax, N.S., Feb. 23.—That all ships of the Canadian Government merchant marine, no matter where they were built, will be registered at Montreal, was the statement made by the Minister of Marine, in a telegram to the Halifax Board of Trade, it was announced at the board's office to-day. The board recently protested to the Minister against registration at Montreal of the steamers Canadian Mariner and Canadian Explorer, both built by the Halifax Shipyards, Limited, the board claiming that Halifax should be the official sailing port of both these ships.

That indicates to me that this report may be wrong, because in place of "the official sailing port" it should read "the official registration port." The statement continues:

At the board's offices this morning it was said that the Minister had promised last year that ships built at Halifax would be registered at Halifax.

I am not here to speak in any way against the registering of any ship at Montreal. We are all proud of Montreal and her position in the Dominion; but it has always been the custom to register ships at the capital of the province in which they are built. Sometimes when there is only one registry port in a province—

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The honourable gentleman has no right to make a speech in calling a matter of this kind to the attention of the House.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: I was trying to get some information. If I may not speak, may I ask the House to permit me to say a word in connection with the matter, because it is an important matter, and I want the leader of the Government to report upon it. If necessary, I intend to move a resolution in regard to it. It is a matter that needs attention at once. But if my honourable friend objects—

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I think my honourable friend should give notice of motion if he wants to make a speech.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Give notice of motion.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: I do not know whether this is really a matter of fact or not, but perhaps that is one of the strongest reasons why I should not speak about it.