

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 17, 1937.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### PRIVATE BILLS

#### FIRST READINGS

Bill K2, an Act respecting Premier Trust Company.—Hon. Mr. Little.

Bill L2, an Act to incorporate Mercantile Fire Insurance Company.—Hon. Mr. Lacasse.

### OLD AGE PENSIONS BILL

#### FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 42, an Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act.

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not know whether I should proceed to ask leave of the Senate to move the second reading of this Bill now or to-morrow. This is a Bill to amend the Old Age Pensions Act in order to enable blind persons who may draw pensions to do so at forty years of age instead of at seventy. The Bill was passed in the House of Commons yesterday, and the reason for the urgency of its adoption by this Chamber is that similar legislation by provincial legislatures which are now sitting will be necessary.

We may put it down for second reading to-morrow.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am quite prepared.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Second reading to-morrow.

### TRANSPORT BILL

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion for the adoption of the amendments made by the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours to Bill B, an Act to establish a Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada, with authority in respect of transport by railways, ships, aircraft and motor vehicles.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: As all honourable members understand, the stage of the measure now before us is the consideration of the amendments made to this Bill by the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours after a full review of the

measure. Yesterday I asked the Government not to press this House to a decision on the amendments until honourable members had had a chance to review their position in the light of a further amendment which the Government promised in respect to a certain phase of the measure. Now that the time asked for has elapsed, I see no reason why we should not go ahead with the consideration of the report of the committee, and personally I see no reason why the House should not adopt the report. The committee made a very extensive list of amendments. It is, I think, no exaggeration to say that those amendments, one and all, were improvements of the measure. It is only fair to add that all were made—I say this subject to correction—with the approval of the Minister in charge of transport, who appeared quite frequently before the committee and was therefore in a position to state his views. Quite evidently the committee felt that the Bill should be reported for consideration by the House. Personally I think the amendments as made should be adopted.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The motion before the House, honourable senators, is: Moved by Right Honourable Senator Graham, seconded by Honourable Senator Dandurand, that the amendments made by the Standing Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours to Bill 2, entitled "An Act to establish a Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada, with authority in respect of transport by railways, ships, aircraft and motor vehicles," be now concurred in. Is it your pleasure, honourable members, to adopt the motion?

The motion was agreed to.

#### CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, the Senate went into committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Donnelly in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable members, I do not suggest that the committee examine the Bill clause by clause. The House has just adopted in general the amendments made by the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours, but I have some amendments to propose to the Bill as it now stands after coming from that committee. Had there been but one amendment, as I thought yesterday there would be, I should have awaited the third reading stage before proposing it, but there are a number of consequential amendments, and I thought it was better that we should go into committee to consider them all. Honourable members have before them a copy of the Bill as amended by the Com-