

## THE SENATE

Thursday, May 26, 1932.

The Senate met at 10 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### COMMERCE AND TRADE RELATIONS PRINTING OF EVIDENCE—MOTION NEGATIVED

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: I cast myself upon the indulgence of the House in order to move:

That 600 copies in English and 200 copies in French of the evidence adduced before the Standing Committee on Commerce and Trade Relations of Canada be printed for general distribution.

I understood that this was included in the motion for the adoption of the report, but I now find that I was in error.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If my honourable friend had notified us that he intended making a slight modification, I would have suggested that in the comparison he makes respecting our foreign trade he should have shown the peak year. He has indicated two years after which there was a considerable expansion of trade. May I ask, does this motion refer to the report only?

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: No. The report was adopted, but by mistake I did not include the evidence.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The motion covers only the report, not the evidence?

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: The printing of the report was authorized previously, but the evidence was omitted from the motion. This motion covers the evidence.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Has it been considered by the committee to be of sufficient importance to justify the printing of it?

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I should like to say a word or two before the motion is put. The principle involved in the motion now before the House was raised and discussed in regard to a motion yesterday or the day before, and I have since been giving the matter a little further consideration. I think we perhaps made a mistake the other day in ordering the printing of all those copies in English and in French. In view of the depressing times through which we are passing, and the absolute necessity for economy, I

think this House is probably going too far in embarking on such an expense. I was very much impressed by the remarks of my honourable friend from Rougemont (Hon. Mr. Lemieux) and others in this regard, and I have no doubt they will support me in the contention that it is questionable that this printing should be ordered. We must remember that the proceedings of the committee have not attracted a great deal of attention, and while the content of the report might be of general interest, it is a question whether it is of sufficient interest to justify the expense of printing at this particular time. For this reason I suggest that in the interest of economy my honourable friends to whom I have referred should come to my support in objecting to the printing of the report under present conditions.

Hon. R. LEMIEUX: Honourable senators, I was sincere when, yesterday, I made my objection, on the ground of economy, to the printing of a certain report. Although I appreciate very highly the work of the committee presided over by my honourable friend from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan), I believe, with my honourable friend from Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird), that we should not overlook even small economies at this time.

I carry with me a statement by one of the best informed men in the country, a former civil servant, Mr. Lambert Payne, which was published the other day in the Montreal Star. The figures he quoted are simply appalling. They show the enormous extent of the borrowings by our federal, provincial and municipal governments. For the benefit of the House I will give the totals, in round figures. The Dominion funded debt is \$2,544,000,000; Canadian National Railways debt, \$2,235,000,000; provincial funded debts, \$919,000,000; other provincial debts, \$299,000,000; municipal debts, \$1,209,000,000. The huge aggregate of these debts to which Canada is committed, and which the taxpayer must face every day, every week and every month, is \$7,207,790,028.

It seems to me that those figures impress upon us the warning that we must begin somewhere, some day, to practise economy. I was pleased to see that my friend the Minister of Finance, Mr. Rhodes, had used the pruning knife on the estimates, even at the risk of becoming unpopular. He could have gone further, but what he did was done heroically, and I congratulate him upon it. We must not discourage those who advocate stringent economy, for, as I say, we must make a beginning in curtailing our expenditures, and thus set an example to the country.