

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BILL

CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE POSTPONED

On the Order:

The House again in Committee of the Whole on Bill 123, intituled: "An Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act."—(Honourable Mr. Dandurand.)

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would ask the House to go into Committee on this Bill, as I think we might finish it in a few minutes.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I was going to suggest to the honourable gentleman that he might consent to an amendment, to bring the Bill into effect a year after the date mentioned in the Bill. It is now 1928. Make it 1929. That would have two effects. It would allow information as to the tax to penetrate into that country, which would take a long time; it would afford opportunity to people in that Territory to make arrangements based on this tax; and it would also enable the government to make their plans for the collection of the tax, and would give time for the people of that country to make a protest against the Act when it comes into operation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The honourable gentleman desires that this Act should come into force on the 1st day of January, 1929, instead of 1928?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Yes. The outfits for northern trade are probably starting forth now. They are probably assembled now at Fort McMurray for that trade, and others are going from the south and from Vancouver into the Arctic. There will be no time for the information to spread over the country so that people can make their arrangements. These outfits that are going up now will not make their returns till the freeze-up in the fall.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would not my honourable friend think that the news would have plenty of time to spread between now and the 1st of January next through the wireless stations that dot that country?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: They do not it; that is the trouble. There are only two of them in the north, one at Fitzgerald and the other at Aklavik. They exist in the imagination of the Government.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Government is better informed than I am, and I would ask that we call it 1 o'clock, and I will submit this proposal to the Minister of the Interior.

At 1 o'clock the Senate took recess.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

The Senate resumed at 3 p.m.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READING

Bill 144, an Act respecting the Midland Railway Company of Manitoba.—Hon. Mr. McMeans.

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. McMEANS moved the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: After the second reading of this Bill we will discuss whether to send such Bills to Committee or to give them third reading.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. McMEANS moved the third reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, the purpose of this Bill, respecting the Midland Railway Company of Manitoba, is only to bring the railway under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission by declaring the works of the company to be for the general advantage of Canada. The Midland Railway is a short line of only about six miles. The stock of the company is owned by the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, and the company has running rights between Winnipeg and Emerson over the Canadian National, which is under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission. There has been some doubt whether the Railway Commissioners of Canada could exercise jurisdiction over the Midland Railway, because it had a Provincial charter. The purpose of the Bill is merely to declare that the six miles of railway are for the general advantage of Canada.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUÉ: There should be no objection to that.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: I do not think there is any objection.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We need not take our present procedure as a precedent and treat all Bills likewise.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: Oh, no: we will take each one by itself.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Each one on its merits. We can arrange for the Railway Committee and the Committee on Banking and Commerce to meet either at the close of the sitting this afternoon, or during the evening,