

should receive the information that the Prime Minister has been good enough to give us; for it will do something to make clear what I now recall was known in 1934 and 1935 and which I had forgotten entirely until I heard the right hon. gentleman read it, as to the methods which have been provided for taking the opinion of German nationals on matters referred to them by way of plebiscite or otherwise.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): May I ask the Prime Minister if his knowledge of the situation indicates that these privileges of voting extend to the children of naturalized Germans, that is, those born in this country, or is it confined only to German nationals and those naturalized?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think children of Germans naturalized in this country would have the right to vote, but I cannot answer the hon. gentleman's question definitely offhand.

#### CABLE AND WIRELESS RATES

##### ANNOUNCEMENT TABLED RESPECTING RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS BY IMPERIAL COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport): I wish to lay on the table the official announcement of the new cable and wireless rates which will become effective on the twenty-fifth instant as a result of inquiries and negotiations carried on during the past two years at the instance of the home government and the governments of the various dominions by the imperial communications advisory committee.

#### SCOTSGUARD, SASK., FARMERS

##### LACK OF FEED FOR LIVE STOCK OWING TO DISCONTINUANCE OF WINTER FEED

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to bring to the attention of the minister, with the permission of the house, a matter that I was asked urgently to direct to the attention of the government to-day, namely, the inability of the settlers of Scotsguard, Saskatchewan, to obtain feed for their cattle and horses, winter feed having been discontinued, and their being unable to secure adequate information in respect to the applications they have made to the officials in that section. I was asked to bring the matter to the attention of the minister in the house in the belief that he would perhaps have more information than anyone else and would see that the matter was at least explained to the settlers in that locality.

[Mr. Bennett.]

#### PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS

##### PROPOSED ABOLITION OF APPEALS TO HIS MAJESTY IN COUNCIL

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (St. Lawrence-St. George) moved the second reading of Bill No. 19, respecting appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

He said: This bill, No. 19, is short, containing only three sections which I propose to place on Hansard:

1. This act may be cited as The Privy Council Appeals Act, 1938.

2. The Judicial Committee Act, 1833, chapter forty-one of the statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1833 and The Judicial Committee Act, 1844, chapter sixty-nine of the statutes of Great Britain and Ireland, 1844, and all orders, rules or regulations made under the said acts are hereby repealed in so far as the same are part of the law of the Dominion of Canada.

3. Notwithstanding any royal prerogative or anything contained in the Interpretation Act or in the Supreme Court Act or in any other act of the parliament of Canada no appeal shall lie or be brought from any judgment or order of any court in Canada, in relation to any matter within the competence of the parliament of Canada, to any court of appeal, tribunal or authority by which, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, appeals or petitions to his majesty in council may be heard.

Though the British North America Act, 1867, purported to declare that the exclusive legislative authority of the parliament of Canada extends to all matters coming within certain classes of subject mentioned in section 91 of that act, it was nevertheless soon ascertained that the Colonial Laws Validity Act, enacted two years previously by the parliament of the United Kingdom, effectively restricted the field of Canadian legislation.

Section 2 of that act of 1865 provided that:

Any colonial law which is or shall be in any respect repugnant to the provisions of any act of parliament extending to the colony to which such law may relate . . . shall be read subject to such act . . . and shall to the extent of such repugnancy but not otherwise be and remain absolutely void and inoperative.

The Statute of Westminster, 1931, which enacts statutory bases for the constitutional position established in 1926, provides, in brief:

That the Colonial Laws Validity Act shall no longer apply to any law made after the passage of this act by the parliament of a dominion;

That no law and no provision of any law made after December 11, 1931, by the parliament of a dominion shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to the law of England, or to the provisions of any existing or future act of the parliament