

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The only ships or steamers in the service of the Government concerning which I desire information are small tug boats.

Mr. REID: There are a great many in the list and the Naval Department has informed me that it is not advisable to bring down the information.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I presume I can get the information privately.

M. REID: There is no objection to giving it to you privately.

Motion dropped.

### THE SENATE.

#### PROPOSED CHANGE IN ITS CONSTITUTION.

Mr. W. M. GERMAN (Welland) moved:

That an humble Address be presented to His Most Excellent Majesty the King, in the following words:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty:  
Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty praying that you may graciously be pleased to give your consent to submit a measure to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, to amend the British North America Act, 1867, in the manner following, or to the following effect:

"An Act to amend the British North America Act, 1867."

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follow:—

Sections 21 to 36 inclusive of the British North America Act, 1867, and of the British North America Act, 1915, are hereby repealed and the following enacted in lieu thereof:

1. The Senate shall subject to the provisions of this Act consist of ninety-six members who shall be styled "Senators."

2. Each of the Provinces of Canada shall be represented in the Senate by the following number of Senators:

Quebec by twenty-four,  
Ontario by twenty-four,  
New Brunswick by ten,  
Nova Scotia by ten,  
Prince Edward Island by four,  
Manitoba by six,  
Saskatchewan by six,  
Alberta by six; and  
British Columbia and the Yukon Territory by six.

3. For the purposes of such representation, each of the provinces of Canada shall be forthwith, after the passing of this Act, divided into as many Senatorial Districts as there are Senators for such provinces and so divided as that all the Districts shall have as far as practicable an equal number of population, and for the purposes of this Act British Columbia and the Yukon Territory shall be taken as one province.

4. Immediately after such division of the Provinces, the Senators who have at that time

been appointed, shall be allotted to and among the various districts so that each District shall be represented by one Senator, and all of such Senators shall hold their positions as though this Act had not been passed.

5. From and after the division of the Provinces into Senatorial Districts, and the allotment of Senatorial representation thereto, as a vacancy occurs in the representation of any District the vacancy shall be filled by election, and all Senators shall thereafter be elected by the qualified electors of each Senatorial District in the same manner as members of the House of Commons are elected.

6. Each Senator shall be elected for a period of seven years and their seats shall not become vacant by a dissolution of Parliament.

7. A speaker of the Senate shall be elected by the Senators from among themselves in such manner as they may determine and shall hold office for a term not exceeding seven years.

8. The presence of at least fifteen Senators including the Speaker shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Senate for the exercise of its powers.

9. Questions arising in the Senate shall be decided by a majority of voices and the Speaker shall in all cases have a vote and when the voices are equal the decision shall be deemed to be in the negative.

10. Section 3 of Chapter 12 of the Revised Statutes of Canada is amended by striking out the words "or another speaker is appointed by the Governor General" in the last two lines and inserting in lieu thereof "or another speaker is elected."

11. Section 128 of the British North America Act, 1867, is amended by striking out the words "and every member of the Senate of Canada" in the eighth and ninth lines thereof and, the Declaration of Qualification in the fifth Schedule to said Act, is amended by striking out the words "Senate of Canada" in the second line thereof, and inserting the words "Legislative Council of Quebec."

12. Section 147 of the British North America Act, 1867, is repealed and the following enacted in lieu thereof:—

"In the case of the admission of Newfoundland the number of Senators shall be one hundred of which Newfoundland shall have four to be elected as provided by this Act."

13. All the provisions of The Dominion Elections Act, The Dominion Controverted Elections Act, The Corrupt Practices Inquiries Act, The Senate and House of Commons Act, and The House of Commons Act, wherein not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall apply to the Senators, their election, qualification and disqualification in the same manner and with the same effect as to members of the House of Commons.

14. If at any time the Senate rejects a Bill passed by the House of Commons or so amends the same as to make it objectionable to the House of Commons and the matters in difference cannot be on a conference adjusted so as to make the same acceptable to the two branches of Parliament, the Government may advise a dissolution of Parliament and if such dissolution takes place with an election thereon and the Bill in the same terms immediately such election again is passed by the House of Commons, it shall become law on the approval of the Governor General and without being again submitted to the Senate.

15. This Act may be cited as the British North America Act, 1917, and the British North Ame-