

house for returns or papers, but all papers and returns ordered at one session of the house, if not complied with during the session, shall be brought down during the following session, without renewal of the order.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I desire to congratulate my hon. friend on having been right. Obviously he wanted it to be made public that he was right. I may say I was right in principle; that was the former rule, because every decision of the house drops when the session is over, but the practice has been established in recent years so that these orders have not to be renewed. I shall be pleased indeed to give these papers to my hon. friend, and again I congratulate him on having been right this time.

Mr. McQUARRIE: The minister was right two years ago, but he is not up to date.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY (Argenteuil): That has been the rule of the house for many years.

#### MOTOR AND PLEASURE BOATS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): I desire to ask the Minister of Marine (Mr. Cardin) when I may expect to hear from him in regard to rescinding the order in council imposing a tax on motor boats and canoes on the Muskoka lakes.

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Marine): Mr. Speaker, I am considering the representations made to me from different sources, and expect to be in a position to give a final decision in the course of a few days.

#### NOVA SCOTIA—COAT OF ARMS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. A. BLACK (Halifax): May I ask the Secretary of State (Mr. Rinfret) whether he has had any correspondence with the premier of Nova Scotia with regard to the coat of arms of that province? If so, would he be good enough to lay the correspondence on the table?

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State): I do not recollect any such correspondence. There may have been an exchange of letters directly with the department. I will look into the matter.

#### IMPERIAL CABLE MERGER

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Postmaster General) moved the second reading of Bill No. 213, to authorize consent to the sale of certain cable and wireless telegraph undertakings

established under the Pacific Cable Acts, 1901 to 1924 (Imp.), and the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924 (Imp).

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, before this motion is carried, I think in fairness to the house the Postmaster General ought to make a complete statement, giving full particulars with regard to the whole bill. Until now the house has very little information with regard to the question. I have been anxiously awaiting a statement from the minister.

Mr. VENIOT: Mr. Speaker, this bill was before the house last week, and both the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and myself went into the question as fully as possible; we gave the house all the information we could. If there is any further detailed information required, I think it ought to be given when the bill is in committee of the whole house.

Mr. HEAPS: If I may ask a question now of the minister, will he give us some enlightenment before the bill receives second reading?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We are on the second reading now.

Mr. HEAPS: Unfortunately the house has not any information worth while on which it can give judgment whether this bill ought to receive second reading or not. About the end of February I had a question on the order paper asking for the production of all documents and correspondence pertaining to this question. On the second day of May, nine weeks afterwards, the papers were tabled, but there was very little in them. I have before me now the correspondence tabled and I find a report of the conference held last year in London, England, and three letters. These letters afford very little information to the house. I find one communication dated November 10 and a telegram from our Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in Great Britain as follows:

Ottawa, November 10, 1927.

All circumstances make it clear that it is urgently necessary to give immediate consideration to commercial position of the Pacific cable as requested in our cables of July 30 and August 16 on which no action has yet been taken.

There is absolutely nothing in any of this correspondence to show the nature of the communications sent by the Canadian government on those dates—the summer of 1927. Further, it is stated:

Canadian government therefore proposes that a committee be set up in London comprising