

countries, by their governments, have ratified the agreement on silver, and what countries have not yet done so.

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I am unable to answer that question offhand, but I will take this as a notice.

DISCONTINUED PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I have to advise the house that the Board of Pension Commissioners, with respect to all cases in which the legality of the marriage status of a pensioner was under dispute, will send cheques to such persons as may be affected as from the day of the discontinuance or reduction of the pension, and that the board proposes to refer to the Justice department, for an opinion, the legal questions involved in the determinations at which they had arrived. The matter is under consideration by the Minister of Justice for the purpose of determining whether or not he has authority to refer typical cases from the several categories affected to the Exchequer Court for an opinion or judgment.

With respect to the cases in which the pension or allowance has been reduced or cancelled the board is forwarding cheques to all those who have been thus dealt with without having an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): May I ask the Prime Minister if that includes all cases?

Mr. BENNETT: It refers to all cases which have been dealt with since February 1, 1933. The statute now provides that the cases can only be dealt with after an opportunity has been accorded to the person concerned to be heard, so it puts all the cases that have been dealt with since that date in the category of cases provided for by the statute.

Mr. VENIOT: Irrespective of the class in which those cancelled pensions are to be found?

Mr. BENNETT: I said all cases in which, under the statute, it is now provided that the person concerned shall have an opportunity to be heard. They will be treated as though the statute applied as from February 1.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CLOSING OF RAILWAY STATION AT AULAC, WESTMORLAND COUNTY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. MICHAUD (Restigouche-Madawaska): I should like to ask the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) if he has received

a protest from the government of the province of New Brunswick with regard to the closing of the railway station at Aulac in the county of Westmorland, and, if such protest has been received, what action has been taken?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I receive so many protests of this kind that from memory I cannot say whether or not I have received the one referred to. I have received from someone a protest along that line; I cannot remember at the moment from whom it came, but all I can do is to pass such protests on to the management of the railway, and that I have done. I might just add that of course those interested can appeal to the board of railway commissioners as well.

TOBACCO TAX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. GOTT (South Essex): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes). I have received one or two telegrams from the tobacco growers of western Ontario protesting against a proposed tax of 20 cents per pound on raw leaf tobacco. I should like to ask if any representations have been made to the government by the growers of raw leaf tobacco in Canada with regard to this tax; if so, when they were made and if they are likely to receive favourable consideration.

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I may say that a deputation waited upon me making representations along the lines indicated, but I am sure my hon. friend will be the first to appreciate that any announcement on behalf of the government with respect to tariff or taxation can be made only in the orthodox way, when the budget is brought down.

BUREAU FOR TRANSLATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I may say for the information of those members of the house who may be interested that when government orders are reached on Tuesday next I propose to move the second reading of Bill No. 4, respecting the bureau for translations.

BANK OF CANADA

MOTION BY MINISTER OF FINANCE TO INTRODUCE BILL INCORPORATING BANK OF CANADA

Hon. EDGAR N. RHODES (Minister of Finance) moved:

That, it is expedient to introduce a measure to incorporate a central bank in Canada, and