

Validity of Alberta Statutes

Toronto. I am therefore directing these questions to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Howe):

1. Will the minister make a statement giving any information on this matter?

2. Will the minister prevail on the Canadian National Railway authorities to abstain from transferring this work from Toronto?

3. Could the minister give any reason for this proposed change?

4. Are a number of men being laid off at the East Toronto yards on account of this transfer?

5. What provision is being made for the men who are being laid off?

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport): My hon. friend gave me notice of this question a few moments ago. I have no information whatever on the subject, and in the ordinary course of events it is not a matter which would come to my attention. However, I shall be glad to direct the attention of the management of the railway to the inquiry of my hon. friend in this matter.

VALIDITY OF ALBERTA STATUTES

QUESTION OF DISALLOWANCE OF LEGISLATION INCLUDING ACT TO COME INTO FORCE JUNE 1

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the discussion that took place last evening it occurred to me this morning that this is the 31st of May and that to-morrow a certain statute which was enacted by the legislature of the province of Alberta will, unless disallowed, come into force. Inasmuch as great injury would follow to those who accept the statute if it were subsequently disallowed, I should like to ask the minister whether or not it is proposed to take immediate action to disallow such legislation, on the theory that if it were done, then 'twere well it were done quickly.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Six of the statutes which were enacted by the legislature of Alberta at its recent session are actually being considered by the department, and a recommendation will be prepared in due time, because there have been petitions for their disallowance. I might add that petitions are still coming in in very large numbers. The six statutes are the following: the Debt Adjustment Act, 1937, Amendment Act, 1938; the Limitation of Actions, 1935, which has been amended at the session of 1938; the Home Owners' Security Act; the 1938 Securities Tax Act; the Banking Corporations Temporary Additional Taxation Act; the Debt Proceedings Suspension Act, and the

[Mr. H. G. Clarke.]

Tax Recovery Act, 1938. Requests for disallowance of these six statutes have been sent to the governor in council. Only one of them would come within the question that my right hon. friend has asked, namely, the 1938 Securities Tax Act, which compels every owner of a mortgage to pay a tax of two per cent on the principal of the mortgage on June 1 and to file a statement on the same day. There are penalties imposed—I think it is ten dollars a day—for failure to file the statement, and then an additional tax of five per cent of the tax of two per cent for every day of failure. This is really the only one in respect of which there is the urgency mentioned by my right hon. friend. I might say however that the question is a very difficult one, and there has not been any decision as yet.

Mr. MITCHELL: Will the Minister of Justice say whether there have been any petitions for the non-disallowance of these acts?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Yes. There have been a few letters and resolutions, rather than petitions, for the non-disallowance of these acts.

ANTICOSTI ISLAND

PROSPECTIVE SALE TO FOREIGN INTERESTS—MR. EMIL KARL GERHARDT

On the orders of the day.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct attention again to certain statements by one Karl R. Gerhard which appeared in the public press, in connection with his citizenship and his relations to the head of the German republic. I would ask the Secretary of State (Mr. Rinfret) to ascertain whether or not Mr. Karl R. Gerhard or anyone with a similar name has been naturalized in this country in 1938, and whether or not the man who says that he is not Mr. Emil Karl Gerhardt is in fact the man who was part of the entourage of Mr. Hitler when he was visiting Rome a few weeks ago. I understand that the minister cannot answer now.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State): This has been brought to my attention already. Perhaps it would be safer if I said to my right hon. friend that I will give him a fuller reply to-morrow; but my information so far is that they are two different men—

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I heard.

Mr. RINFRET: —and that the man to whom the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) has alluded is not the gentleman who is a British citizen. However I will give a fuller reply to-morrow.