

of Canada who is or has been, since 1st January, 1931, appointed chief commissioner or assistant chief commissioner of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada.

He said: His Excellency, the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

PEACE RIVER OUTLET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. KENNEDY (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) if he expects in the near future to table the report on the surveys made by the Canadian Pacific Railway in connection with a possible route from the Peace River district.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): For the information of the hon. member and the house I may say that Mr. Beatty, the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, did a few days ago give me the report of their investigations into the Peace River outlet, upon which they spent a great deal of money. The report is in typewritten form, and has not yet been printed. We have not yet really had time to go into it, but I think probably a little later the government will decide to get it printed and tabled; but that has still to be considered.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

REDUCTION IN WORKING TIME AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES OF GENERAL OFFICE STAFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): By the morning's paper I notice that the Canadian Pacific Railway has given its general office employees a lay-off equivalent to a 10 per cent reduction in wages. As this corporation is a semi-public utility I should like to ask what the government policy is with regard to this reduction in wages.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must rule the question out of order.

PRIVILEGE—MR. REID

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I rise to a question of privilege. On Friday of last week I was quoted as speaking as a lawyer, and in to-day's papers I am quoted as a Conservative.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. REID: This is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker, and I must draw the line somewhere.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): I should like to inquire from the government when we may expect the legislation to be brought down with respect to old age pensions.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The information will be available when His Excellency the Governor General gives his consent to the legislation being introduced.

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

REPORT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY HON. MR. FERGUSON AT LEEDS, ENGLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. W. JACOBS (Cartier): I would ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the government to verify the report of a speech made by Canada's High Commissioner, the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, at Leeds, Yorkshire, as reported by the Canadian Press on April 28. It appears in the Ottawa Journal under the heading of "Ferguson points to U.S. Influence." In the body of the report occurs this passage:

What was happening at present was that out of \$4,500,000,000 invested in Canada from outside sources, \$3,500,000,000 was American capital and barely \$1,000,000,000 from this country.

Then follows the paragraph which I wish particularly to draw to the attention of the Prime Minister:

Think of the insidious influence in that connection with its introduction of American executives, American methods and contacts.

I should like to ascertain from the Prime Minister if he thinks this is of sufficient importance to verify the accuracy of the report, and if he finds it is accurate, will some attempt be made to cramp the style of Canada's High Commissioner?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman might, Mr. Speaker, under ordinary circumstances have given the government notice of his intention to ask such a serious question as that involved in the latter part of his inquiry. As to the first part, the government will make inquiries as to the accuracy of the report. As to the second, the government will do what it thinks best in the public interest.