

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury) in the chair.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—Definitions.

Mr. HANBURY: I should like to know whether there will be any change in our Canadian judiciary as a result of the carrying out of this legislation?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes, there are some changes. For instance, at the present time the Exchequer Court is empowered to administer the admiralty law in the Dominion of Canada. Both judges of that court, there being a chief and puisne judge, have jurisdiction. At the present time, in the case of an appeal such appeal may be heard by either one of the judges of the Exchequer court. Under the present bill the two judges will have to hear appeals. In the case of the absence or the inability of one judge to be present power is given for the appointment of an ad hoc judge to be called in for that purpose, in order to make a court of two judges. There are some changes of that kind, although there are not many, and they are not important.

Section agreed to.

Sections 3 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

On section 11—Governor in council may constitute admiralty districts.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): In regard to section 11, may I ask the minister whether the admiralty districts already established by order in council are interfered with by this act, and whether they will have to be reestablished?

Mr. GUTHRIE: This is precisely the same allocation of admiralty districts as appears in the present act in the revised statutes. There has been no change.

Section agreed to.

Sections 12 to 38 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule A agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

INDIAN ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. THOMAS G. MURPHY (Minister of the Interior) moved the second reading of Bill No. 90, respecting the Caughnawaga Indian reserve and to amend the Indian Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury) in the chair.

On section 1—Acts and proceedings validated.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Would the minister explain the object of this bill?

Mr. BENNETT: It is to validate an illegal order in council.

Mr. MURPHY: If the ex-Minister of the Interior will turn to my remarks as reported in Hansard when the bill was introduced on June 1 he will find there a full explanation.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Two or three words would settle the whole matter. The Caughnawaga band of Indians has been particularly difficult to deal with. I do not ask for a long explanation.

Mr. MURPHY: On March 5, 1889, the Caughnawaga band was brought under part 2 of the Indian Act by order in council. The order provided for six sections or divisions of the reserve under the provisions of the act, section 167, which provides for the division of the reserve into sections not exceeding six, containing as nearly as possible an equal number of voters, or if the Indians so desire, only one section may be constituted. Subsequently on July 12, 1906, at the request of the Indians a further order in council changed the six sections to one. Since that year elections for councillors have been conducted annually under the latter order in council. That is to say, the councillors for that reserve have been elected at large rather than for the six sections. It now transpires that that second order in council was illegal and the legislation now before the house is merely for the purpose of validating the acts which have been done since that time down to the present, and to amend the section so that the superintendent general may have the elections in that reserve carried on either for the six divisions or for the reserve as one division, as may be wished.

Section agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

EXCISE ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. R. C. MATTHEWS (Minister of National Revenue) moved the second reading of Bill No. 89, to amend and consolidate the Excise Act.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I do not wish to oppose the second reading of this bill and I rise only to ask the minister if he would