

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. King, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

MARITIME PROVINCES ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. KING moved the second reading of Bill 17, an Act to provide for the payment of additional subsidies to the Maritime Provinces.

He said: This is a companion Bill to that which we have just dealt with. It sets forth that in lieu of the Maritime subsidies which were granted in pursuance of the recommendations of the Duncan Commission, additional subsidies shall be paid; namely, to Nova Scotia \$1,300,000, to New Brunswick \$900,000, to Prince Edward Island \$275,000.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. King, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

TORONTO HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. KING moved the second reading of Bill 68, an Act respecting the Toronto Harbour Commissioners.

He said: This is a short Bill and provides that the Toronto Harbour Commissioners may borrow money to the extent of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of refunding a portion of a refunding loan.

The explanatory note reads:

The Toronto Harbour Commissioners in 1937 issued debentures totalling \$20,456,000 in connection with refunding operations under the authority of its Act of incorporation, chapter 26 of the Statutes of 1911, and the provisions of chapter 11 of the Statutes of 1936.

The Commissioners now wish to refund an instalment of principal of the refunding debentures issued in 1937, amounting to \$5,000,000, which becomes due on September 1, 1942, and doubt has been expressed as to the power of the Commissioners under existing legislation to borrow money by the issue of debentures to pay and redeem debentures which were themselves refunding debentures such as this instalment of \$5,000,000.

Upon application of the Commissioners it is now proposed to clarify the matter so that no doubt will arise as to the power of the Commissioners to renew or refund original or renewal or refunding debentures.

I think this note fully explains the purpose of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. COPP.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. KING: With leave of the Senate, I move third reading of the Bill now.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

DESTRUCTION OF BANANAS AT HALIFAX

ANSWER TO INQUIRY

Hon. Mr. KING: Honourable senators, before adjournment I wish to present a report in answer to certain articles which appeared in the Halifax Herald with reference to the destruction of bananas in Halifax harbour. The matter was brought to our attention by the honourable senator from Bedford-Halifax (Hon. Mr. Quinn). This is the report furnished by the Minister of the department concerned:

On April 30 there reached Halifax a cargo of bananas, a considerable portion of which was in an overripe condition and proved to be unsaleable and unshippable. The spoiling appears to have been due to war shipping conditions, causes entirely beyond the control of either the exporter or the importer. I understand that part of the shipment was given away by the owners to certain charitable institutions. None of the shipment was dumped in the harbour proper. The spoiled bananas were removed from the wharf by the Harbour Board and put in a special dump at pier 40. It may be possible that some of the bananas were removed from pier 40 by truck drivers entirely without the consent of the Harbour Board. I understand it is reported that some even turned up in the Northwest Arm. If so, I am assured by the harbour authorities that they were moved by truck drivers or other unauthorized persons from the harbour dump and placed there.

CANADA EVIDENCE BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 66, an Act to amend the Canada Evidence Act.

The Bill was read the first time.

BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Honourable senators, I desire to call the attention of members of our Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce that it will sit to-morrow morning at 10.30. Notices will be sent out in due course.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.