

a process is necessary in the enforcement of this law, which is most difficult to enforce. Personally I feel, as I know honourable members on both sides of the House do, that under no conditions can there be any justification for the deliberate penalizing of persons who are entirely innocent, who not only have obeyed the law, but have done everything in their power to see that others obey it. To say that enforcement necessitates the punishment of such persons is to argue that the law is fundamentally wrong and unsuitable.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: Unsuitable to our conditions.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The Senate's amendments provided that an accused person, who under British jurisprudence is presumably innocent, would have cast upon him the onus of proving not only that he himself was innocent, but that he had made positive and thorough efforts to see that persons likely to disobey the law were not put in a position to do so. I am at a loss to understand what more we can do than insist that an accused person have the right to prove his innocence. I have hopes that the other House will meet us on this subject, and I move that the Senate insist on its amendments.

The motion was agreed to.

BANK OF CANADA BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 19, an Act to incorporate the Bank of Canada.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN, with leave of the Senate, moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators, in support of my motion for second reading, without notice, of this important measure, I will merely say that there is only one principle to be considered. That principle is whether we shall or shall not have a Central Bank in this country. There may be differences of opinion as to the proposed plan for fulfilling and implementing that principle—as, for instance, whether the Bank should be Government-owned—but in passing the second reading we decide only one thing, namely, that we should have a Central Bank.

The measure comes to us from the other House after a long debate there, a debate which has doubtless afforded an opportunity for honourable senators to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the terms of the pro-

posed legislation, and arguments for or against it. I intend to move, as soon as the second reading is passed, for a reference to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, and to ask that committee to meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock. I hope notices will be in the hands of honourable members and that all will make a special effort to be present. This is particularly important, since a number of members, notably the Chairman and the honourable gentleman who for some time acted as Chairman, have gone away. The measure will not require as much of our time as was given to more intricate and detailed bills which were initiated here, but we shall have to give it considerable attention. As very little time now remains before prorogation, we shall have to concentrate upon this Bill until we dispose of it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand from the right honourable gentleman that if the Bill is given second reading now it will be sent to the Banking and Commerce Committee this afternoon.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And the Senate will be adjourned to a later hour in the afternoon?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. I intended to ask the Senate to come back at 6 o'clock. I do not know how we can very well avoid that. I am somewhat embarrassed by the situation with respect to the Shipping Bill, for the French version has not reached us, and my understanding is that it simply must be here before we can finally dispose of the measure.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: There is not time for long speeches at this late hour of the session. I have a few remarks to make, and, as it is lunch time, perhaps we should adjourn until 3 o'clock. I can go on now if honourable members desire.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I suggest that the honourable senator reserve his general remarks until the motion for third reading is made, if that would suit his convenience.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I am sorry, but I have to go away. The motion is for second reading, and, as the right honourable gentleman has stated, we have to decide upon the principle whether we should or should not have a Central Bank. All my remarks will be on that point. If the House desires, I can make them now.