

PRIVATE BILL
FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. JOHNSTON presented Bill C, an Act to incorporate the Conference of Menonites in Canada.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. JOHNSTON: Next sitting.

DIVORCE
PETITIONS WITHDRAWN

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE presented and moved concurrence in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth reports of the Standing Committee on Divorce.

He said: These reports have to do with cases that have been withdrawn, the parties having settled their differences in nearly every instance and decided to live peaceably together.

The motion was agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL
FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. BENCH presented Bill B, an Act respecting the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Company.

The bill was read the first time.

PUBLICATION OF STATUTES BILL
FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON presented Bill E, an Act to amend the publication of Statutes Act.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall the bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: With leave of the Senate, next sitting.

UNITED NATIONS BILL
FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON presented Bill F, an Act respecting Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall the bill be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: With leave of the Senate, next sitting.

SUBSIDIES ON CONTROLLED
COMMODITIES
INQUIRY

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Before the orders of the day are proceeded with, I should like to refer to a verbal inquiry by the honourable senator from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) respecting the cost of subsidies. He made the inquiry during the course of my remarks on the Address, and he referred to it again during his own speech. I have not undertaken to prepare a specific written reply at this time, but later, perhaps, I shall do so.

In the meantime I should like to say this:

There is no secret about the cost of subsidies being paid out under the price control programme. Cumulative figures for subsidy payments on domestic and imported products since the inception of price control are shown in detail in every annual report of the War-time Prices and Trade Board, and when the latest report of the Board is tabled in parliament, as it will be shortly, it will include the figures up to the end of 1946. Subsidies paid to producers of agricultural products by the Agricultural Food Board are similarly shown in the Minister of Agriculture's annual report to parliament.

If my honourable friend requires more specific information, and will give an outline of what he desires and also indicate the period of time to be covered, I shall be pleased to have the information prepared for him.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: I thank the honourable gentleman for his reply. It is very difficult for one to find out the exact amount of the total cost. If I am not imposing too much on the honourable leader, I would ask him to give us at his convenience the total sum paid out for subsidies, during the last fiscal year, for instance.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I shall be glad to do that, but I think a written inquiry would be in order, so that it could be turned over to the appropriate officials. Then there would be no misunderstanding as to what information my honourable friend desires.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: All right.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from Thursday, February 6, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. McKeen for an address in reply thereto.