

Mr. BOURASSA: Quite so. My contention is that by disregarding this rule last Tuesday the privileges of the house were broken.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was the time to discuss it; the breach cannot be amended now. What is done is done. Even supposing the hon. member's point of order is well taken referring to former procedure it cannot be remedied now, and this is not the time to discuss it.

Mr. BOURASSA: But upon the declaration made by the Prime Minister last night may I not raise the question of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question of privilege at all. If at a later date any member undertakes to do something in violation of the rules of the house it is time enough then to bring up the question. It cannot be anticipated. The notice of motion for closure was not while the house was in session, but while in committee.

Mr. BOURASSA: May I ask, Mr. Speaker, for my guidance, if after closure has been decided upon the point can be raised?

Mr. SPEAKER: It cannot be raised academically.

Mr. BOURASSA: I mean after the vote is taken under the closure rule and as a matter of procedure, can the point be raised that the house cannot proceed with other business?

Mr. SPEAKER: When the house proceeds to such business, if the hon. member thinks it is not within the rules of the house, he can raise the question.

Mr. BOURASSA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is all I want to know.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Mr. M. C. SENN (Haldimand) presented the third and fourth reports of the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization as follows:

THIRD REPORT—BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY

Your committee has had under consideration an order of reference dated Wednesday, February 24, 1932, namely:

"Resolved: that all questions affecting the beet sugar industry in Canada be referred to the select standing committee on agriculture with instructions to inquire into the action which may be taken by the government, by way of customs duties, subsidies, bonuses or otherwise, either in or without cooperation with the provincial governments for promoting the prosperity of the said industry and developing the production of Canadian grown sugar, and report to this house.

Attest.

Arthur Beauchesne,
Clerk of the House."

[Mr. Bourassa.]

Your committee has called and examined the following witnesses:—

H. Marshall—Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. F. W. Grindley—Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Ontario.

W. R. Reek—Director of Experimental Farm, Ridgetown, Ontario.

Thos. Simpson—Farmer, Petrolia, Ontario.

G. L. Rogers—President, British Columbia Sugar Refining Company, Vancouver.

B. R. McMullen—Beet Growers' Association, Alberta.

Chas. Houston—President, Canada and Dominion Sugar Company Limited, Chatham, Ontario.

Alex W. McIntyre—Canada and Dominion Sugar Company Limited, Chatham, Ontario.

W. F. Russell—Alberta Beet Growers' Association.

The evidence submitted established the following facts regarding the industry:

1. That the production of sugar beets has been carried on very profitably in certain districts of Ontario and Alberta: that the area under cultivation has increased from 25,000 acres in 1921 with a yield of 200,000 tons to 42,000 acres in 1931, with a yield of approximately 435,000 tons, and that the production of refined beet sugar has increased from 53,000,000 pounds in 1921 to approximately 100,000,000 pounds in 1931.

The amount paid to the farmers for beets in 1931 was about two and one-half millions of dollars; during the period of normal commodity prices for farm products, an average price of \$7.48 per ton was paid to the farmers for sugar beets, but owing to the present low price of raw cane and refined sugar, the factories claim that they are unable to guarantee more than \$5 per ton for the 1932 crop.

2. That large additional areas, suitable for the growth of sugar beets, are available in Canada.

3. That there are five firms engaged in the refining of sugar in Canada—The Canada and Dominion Sugar Company Limited, producing cane sugar at their Montreal factory, and beet sugar at Chatham and Wallaceburg, Ontario; the British Columbia Sugar Refinery, producing cane sugar at Vancouver, B.C., and beet sugar at Raymond, Alberta; The Arcadia Sugar Refinery Company, Limited, Dartmouth, N.S.; The Atlantic Sugar Refinery, Limited, St. John, N.B.; St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery, Limited, Montreal, P.Q. The last three have engaged exclusively in the manufacture of cane sugar.

4. That during the past ten years the annual average production of refined sugar in Canada was 963 millions of pounds; the percentage of beet sugar production has varied from 6.2 per cent in 1926 to approximately ten per cent in 1930 and 1931.

5. That the sugar beet factories at Chatham, Wallaceburg and Raymond, are now operating at full capacity, and that no further development of the beet sugar industry in Canada is possible until manufacturing capacity is increased.

6. That world stocks of sugar on hand are very large and that an estimated surplus of some four millions of tons will be carried over to next year.