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## OF PEACE TREATY UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Joseph Demers Says It Contravenes B. N. A. Act.

NEED TO RATIFY

Only Result To Bind Canada To Participate in Future Wars.

OTTAWA, Sept. 5 .- Demands for firm andling of the profiteer were again the feature today of the House debate on the address. Mr. Demers of St. Johnsberville thought the problem of the cost of living was of more importance to Canadians than ratification of the peace treaty by the Dominion Parliament. It was high time for the Government. ment. It was high time for the Govern-ment to take speedy action to avoid further crime and possible revolution. As to riffication of the treaty, that, according to Mr. Demers, would result only in Canada binding herself to finan. cial and military participation in any war caused by the dereliction of one of

From other Opposition members came From other Opposition members came criticisms of the Government in regard to the cost of living, with the further plea of an amnesty in favor of defaulters under the military service act. To the latter plea, Dr. Edwards (Frontenac) replied that it was useless to go after defaulters "with feather dusters or ice cream cones." They had failed to do their duty; they should be punished. The cost of living, too, was not a new problem, but it aroused attention today because it affected those not affected before. affected before.

affected before.

Treaty Has Right-of-Way.

On the whole, the debate was spiritless and almost without incident. There
was every electation it would expire
before the House rose. But the acting
leader of the Opposition intimated that
there were others yet to speak, and it
was adjourned. As debate on the peace
treaty has right-of-way between Monday and Thursday, it is unlikely that
debate on the address from the throne
will be resumed before next Friday.

OTTAWA, Ont., Sept. 5 .- There wa short, sharp discussion on ratification

a short, sharp discussion on ratification of the peace treaty immediately the House opened this afternoon. Sir Robert Borden presented a bill to carry the treaty into effect. In reply to Mr. Bureau, Sir Robert said this was the legislation to which the resolution on the order paper referred.

Mr. Devlin then asked how it happened that a bill was introduced in the House, a resolution also was introduced and, at the same time, a resolution was passed by the Senate. Could the premier give any reason why such a procedure should have been adopted? Sir Robert—It was perfectly competent to proceed either by joint resolution or separate resolution in each House. The latter course was adopted, and is perfectly proper.

House. The latter course was adopted, and is perfectly proper.

"Then," queried Mr. Devlin, "shall we be sitting on this resolution as a court of appeal to the Senate or as revising the action of the Senate?"

To Get Views.

"The resolution," Sir Robert rejoined, "is for the purpose of eliciting the opinion of the House. The fact that the Senate has given its opinion does not affect the action of this House in any way."

way."

e bill was read a first time. The bill was read a first time. Joseph Demers, continuing the debate on the address, said that in his opinion the high cost of living was a matter of more importance than the ratification by the Canadian Parliament of the peace treaty. As far as he could judge, there was no reason why Canada should ratify the peace treaty, as the King had already done so. The only result of Canada's ratifying the treaty would be that she would bind herself to

result of Canada's rathying the treaty would be that she would bind herself to financial and military participation in any war caused by the dereliction of one or more of the signatories.

There was another important reason why Canada should not ratify the treaty. The B. N. A. act gave no power to participate in any war save for the defence of Canada. Therefore, Canada could not constitutionally bind herself to engage in foreign wars. This she would have to do if she ratified the treaty.

No Justification.

There was no justification for many of the increases in food prices. Speculators and profiteers were mainly responsible, and it was the duty of the responsible, and it was the duty of the Government and parliament to remedy this, the chief of the people's problems. It was high time, if not too late, for the Government to take speedy action to avoid further crime and possible revolution. The minister of marine and fisheries had promised that a cold storage warehouse would be built at Montreal. Mr. Demers asked why the Government did not at once take over the existing warehouses and see that the food was made possible for the people instead of being held by speculators. The cost of living problem was being successfully met in England, France and the United States, and the future of Canada depended upon the solution being found here without delay.

solution being found here without delay.

There was the question also of amnesty to deserters and defaulters. Infringements of the military service act were numerous in many parts of the country, but one could not be surprised when it was realized that there was no attempt made to educate the people and prepare them for conscription before the measure was passed.

Conscription had been a serious problem in many countries more vitally concerned than was Canada, and it had been adopted in those only after very serious preparation and consideration, and an amnesty was being proposed in some of those countries now. It was useless, said Mr. Demers, to urge greater production in Canada if all the young farmers were being put into jail at this time of the year for infringements of the military service act.

Politics were mainly responsible for the resistance to the military service act. It was the duty of the Government to be merciful and to forgive, that the needs of the people might best be served.

W. K. Baldwin (Stanstead) comparison of the agreement of ministers from

W. K. Baldwin (Stanstead) com-plained of the absence of ministers from Ottawa and of increased Governme Ottawa and of increased Governme expenditure.

He was very suspicious of the Government's object in calling the present session, because he thought the prime minister was preparing to "spring another election." The country was facing financial ruin. The Government's ministers were resigning. Now it looked as if the Government was going to ask the people for a new mandate in order to continue its course of maladministration.

continue its course of maladministration.

Shipping Problems.

Frank Cahill drew the attention of the Government to the problem of international transportation. He read a letter from one of his constituents to the effect that it was impossible to ship lumber owing to a shortage of freight cars. He had referred the matter to the department of railways and canals, but had been told that cars for shipments to the United States were difficult to obtain, owing to the fact that so many Canadian cars were at present across the line. Mr. Cahill thought the Government should take to have Canadian cars returned have canadian cars returned have to have the greatest possible dispatch. Sir George Foster, replying to Mr. Cahill, said that the problem was not as simple as it would seem on the surface. Cars which were sent down to the United States sometimes, stayed there for as long as a year before being returned. The shortage of cars was not due to any criminal intent or neglect on the part of the Government. The Canadian railways, as well as the Government, were interested in bringing back the cars.

back the cars.

Mere Formality.

Dr. J. E. Fontaine, in a brief speech, said that the ratification of the peace said the ratification of the ratification of the peace said the

when men went on strike to get their rights the Government put them in joil. He advocated an eight-hour day for workers, old age pensions and an ammesty for deserters and defaulters under the military service act.

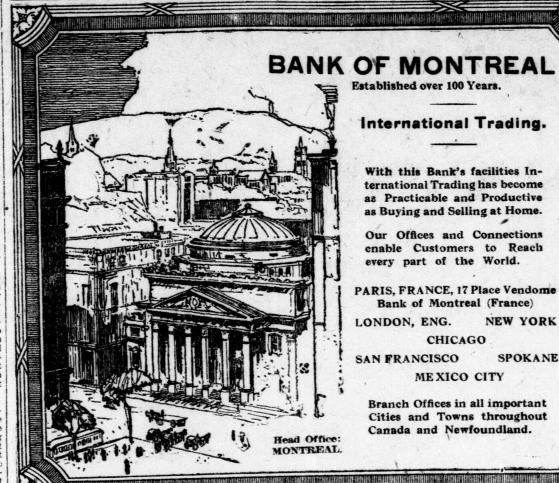
Mr. O. Turgeon said the Government should have seen to it that the province of New Brunswick be represented in the cabinet, following the resignation of Hon, Frank Carvell.

Mr. Turgeon complained that, while promise was made last session that a commission of ministers and experts would be named to travel the country and work on tariff reforms, nothing when men went on strike to get their had been done in this regard, though | CONGRESSMAN-ELECT

QUITS SOCIALISTS

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 5.—Congress-man-elect Victor Berger of Milwaukee, retired today as a member of the na-tional executive committee of the Na-tional Socialist party, and announced he would not be a candidate for re-election.

election.
"I have been a member of the committee ever since the party was organized," said Berger, "and all I ever cot out of it was a twenty-year prison.







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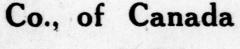
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