

And move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Landry, That in view of the gravity of the statements and allegations contained in the foregoing quoted telegrams, letters and affidavit, reflecting as they do upon the privileges and dignity of the Senate, a Special Committee be appointed to inquire into the truth of the statements and allegations made in said telegrams, letters and affidavit, with power to send for persons and papers, to administer oaths, employ shorthand reporters, and, if deemed advisable, engage counsel; and to report from time to time, said committee to consist of the Hon. Messrs. Baker, Pelletier, Ferguson, Ellis, Landry, Cox, Kirchhoffer, King, Loughheed, Young, Wood of Westmoreland, and the mover.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I have been requested by the hon. Minister of Justice to delay this motion till Tuesday next for some reasons which the hon. gentleman has. I should like to have a day set for it, because I want to get it off my hands.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I have been very busy since I returned to the city, and have not had an opportunity of looking into the law on the subject. I have a pretty strong view as to what that law is. I should like, however, to look into it before my hon. friend makes his motion, and if he fixes it for Tuesday, with certainty of going on at that time, that will be quite satisfactory to me.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—At the request of the hon. Minister of Justice I will allow this notice to stand. I would suggest to him that if he wants to take a little trouble and ascertain what the law of parliament is upon this subject, he should refer to the action of the House of Commons one or two sessions ago in reference to the emergency food case, and also with reference to the alleged frauds in East Elgin and West Huron, and perhaps a little more information might be obtained if we referred to the charge which the late Speaker of the House of Commons made against myself, charging me with some dereliction of duty, in which the law of parliament is pretty well laid down.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I have a pretty clear recollection of all those facts and circumstances, and I daresay my hon. friend opposite will refer to them at the proper and convenient time, and if he does I shall be prepared, I think, to give a satisfactory answer, and I do not think that the characterization which the hon. gentleman has just now given in some of these matters will be warranted by the facts.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—We will see.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I referred to what was charged as frauds, and as far as the characterization was concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that they were frauds.

The motion was allowed to stand.

The Senate adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Friday, March 8, 1901.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION AT PICTOU.

NOTICE OF INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. PRIMROSE gave the following notice:

That he will inquire whether it is the intention of the Government to provide, at an early date, for much needed terminal facilities in the shape of an enlarged station house, additional yard, and freight shed room, as well as increased berth accommodation at the railway wharfs, for vessels loading and unloading cargo at the port of Pictou, Nova Scotia?

He said: This, at first blush, seems to be a pretty extensive proposition, but on closer examination it will not be found so formidable after all. Pictou is a sea port town. Some members of this hon. House are perhaps not aware of that fact, but it is a sea port town of very considerable importance. It is very favourably situated, so far as trade is concerned, as a distributing centre, receiving large amounts of water-borne freight by steamers and vessels and also receiving a large amount of freight by rail to be carried by sea to different parts of the world. There is a very large trade carried on between Prince Edward Island and Pictou, especially in the spring and fall of the year. Navigation last year closed earlier than for years previously. The result was that all the traffic to and from Prince Edward Island was carried by way of Pictou, and, owing to the lack of terminal facilities, yard-room, shed-room, etc., it was very hard to move the freight, the delay