

Mr. GORDON: That is not an unusual course; it has been done many times before. The act contemplates that the board of inquiry may hear these cases at any point. With regard to some of the cases, it often happens that we are positive that a man is illegally in this country, and the nearest, most convenient, port where he can be returned to his country of origin is frequently chosen. I have not before me the immediate details of the case to which reference has been made. Perhaps I shall have an opportunity between now and Monday to inquire more closely into it and if further details can be given I shall be glad to give them.

Mr. H. E. SPENCER (Battle River): Who comprise the board of inquiry in such cases?

Mr. GORDON: Under the provisions of the statute a board of inquiry is set up by a certificate from the minister. It is usual to have at every port of entry, that is ocean ports and ports on the boundary from coast to coast, some responsible officer or probably more than one who can constitute a board of inquiry. I cannot of course say, without reference to the departmental files, who the individual is.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Wetaskiwin): May I ask the minister if, under the act, a specific charge has to be laid against individuals before they are compelled to appear before the board?

Mr. GORDON: No charge as such is contemplated by the act. A complaint is made to an officer who as defined by the act, may include the municipal clerk of a village, town or city, an officer of the department or a peace officer. A complaint is made and then the inquiry is set on foot. After the case is heard pro and con, a report is made to the minister, and if in the minister's judgment the board of inquiry has come to a proper conclusion, and if the person whose case is being investigated, has rendered himself liable, under the provisions of the statute, to being returned to his country of origin, appropriate action is taken.

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The leader of the opposition asked me yesterday to fix a day for the discussion of the estimates with respect to the Imperial conference. I think the item is under the heading of miscellaneous in the main estimates. If Tuesday will be satisfactory, we

shall take it up on that day. If some other day will better suit the convenience of hon. gentlemen opposite, we can arrange accordingly.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Tuesday will be wholly satisfactory. I thank my right hon. friend.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. 66, respecting the Department of Insurance.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. RHODES: As the house is aware decisions, some three in number, of the privy council have made it abundantly clear that the business of insurance is within the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces. While that is so, at the same time the question of bankruptcy and insolvency and also the subject of dealing with aliens and alien companies are within the jurisdiction of this parliament. These circumstances make it necessary that we should have a new act or orientation of acts, if I may use that expression, which will be, as I believe will be the case, beyond question within our legislative jurisdiction. With respect to this bill and the two companion bills which follow, the one under discussion, as the title indicates, is respecting the Department of Insurance. It will be followed by two other bills, one respecting foreign companies and another respecting Canadian and British companies. All, I think, ought to be treated at the same time and I am going to suggest that they be dealt with together in committee of the whole.

These bills have been very carefully discussed in the Senate; there have been numerous public hearings; all parties interested have either been heard or have had full opportunity to be heard, and I may say that the companies themselves are in substantial agreement as to both the principle and the terms of the bills in question. So far as the provinces are concerned, six are quite content with the bills and in fact I think I am expressing their desire correctly when I say it is that the control of insurance, so far as it is within our legislative power, should rest with this parliament and be vested in us. Three of the provinces, while they did not appear before the Senate committee, contented themselves with lodging a formal protest which was of a character to leave it open to them at a subsequent stage, if they chose to do so, to take exception to the legislation. But the framing of the bills has been conducted in such an atmosphere that I hope the result