

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

were engaged might have made us feel they would be. But for each and every one of those casualties, families have suffered grievous losses and made very great sacrifices for the improvement that has been brought about in the world situation by that successful resistance to aggression. I am sure that we all want the members of those families to know that we do appreciate all the sacrifices that have been made in their families for the common cause, and how great is our admiration for all those who have carried the colours of Canada in this far-distant conflict.

It is a great satisfaction that at this time, and for the first time in the last few years, parliament meets when none of our men are actually engaged in fighting abroad. They are standing guard over the freedom and liberties which are very precious to all of us, but there is actually no fighting taking place. We still hope that this armistice in Korea will be only the preliminary of a permanent peace for that unhappy land. I am sure that when permanent peace does come to that unhappy land, we shall all wish, by our votes in this house, to express our feeling that it is up to all to help rebuild, to the extent to which that is possible, the devastated land over which these three years of fighting has taken place.

With respect to domestic affairs, the Leader of the Opposition has stated that the revision of the Criminal Code and the revision of the Bank Act were matters of great importance, and that he, along with other members, would like to have some indication of the manner in which we intended to proceed with the study of these acts.

It had been my understanding at the end of the last session that it might not be necessary to return the Criminal Code to another select committee for special study, but that it might be considered in committee of the whole house—because each and every one of us must be prepared to take his and her responsibility in connection with the defining of these acts which are to constitute the list of those things regarded as criminal in this Canadian society.

I think that that, after all, might be the most expeditious and satisfactory way of dealing with the Criminal Code at this time. But I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that we do wish to have the business of the house conducted in a manner that will lead to the best results, and do so with the least possible waste of time as well as with a probability of achieving those results.

As to the Bank Act—of course, that always goes to the committee on banking and commerce. In setting up the committee this

year, in view of the fact that the act is to be revised I am sure members of all parties would want to have the committee made up of those they feel best qualified to perform a good service for the whole of the Canadian public in the consideration of that act.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I wonder if the Prime Minister would allow a question in connection with the criminal law amendment. Would it be possible to have printed and made available to members the findings of the committee of the last house? I think it would go a long way toward doing away with the necessity of convening another special committee if those recommendations could be made available.

Mr. St. Laurent: I will discuss that with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson). I do not know just how extensive those recommendations are, but I shall discuss it with him, and also with the hon. member who has just taken his seat; because I think it would be very helpful for all, particularly the new members in the house, to have before them the fruits of the very considerable work done by that committee during the last session. If it were just a matter of the recommendations, that would consist perhaps of only a few pages. However, something more than just the recommendations might be helpful as a brief to assist all members in approaching the problem, and finally passing these sections in the committee of the whole house.

The Leader of the Opposition raised the question of the intentions of the government with respect to the large quantities of wheat still available in this country. I do not think that is something we should deplore. Canada did have this year I believe the second largest wheat crop it has ever harvested; and it harvested that crop at a time when our purchasers, in view of the discussions over the renewal of the wheat agreement, had already filled their storehouses to bursting capacity. This has meant that the purchases of new wheat so far have not been as large as they were in previous years.

The hon. member has suggested that a day should be set apart for a discussion of this subject. I would be glad to discuss the matter with him informally, because I think we would both wish to have the matter dealt with—I was going to say “threshed out”, but the threshing has been done for some time—in a manner that will impress all hon. members and the public at large with the fact that the matter is being given proper and serious consideration. I would expect that within the next day or two my colleague the Minister