

exact information in regard to the matter and see that it is given to my hon. friend.

Mr. MACDONALD: When is the resolution with regard to pensions to be introduced? Instances have been brought to the attention of many hon. gentlemen indicating the desirability of giving wider discretion to the Pensions Board to deal with cases that could not have been anticipated when the Pensions Act was passed.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend's inquiry is a very reasonable one. I shall make an announcement on the subject early next week.

WESTERN COAL SUPPLY.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. W. E. KNOWLES (Moosejaw): The Minister of Trade and Commerce stated on Thursday that he had received a report from Mr. Magrath. Would he be averse to bringing down a copy of that report?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am not sure about bringing down copies of those reports. They are made to me, and I would have to look them over. To convey all the information my hon. friend and, no doubt, the House would like to have on the subject of provision of coal for Canada during this season would require more than an answer to a question. I do not say that the House is not interested in that information, nor that it should not have it. I think that on Monday or Tuesday, if the House so desires and will permit me, I will make a somewhat extended statement so as to show the existing conditions of things and the present possibilities of securing supplies.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The House will certainly be glad to have such a statement.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Then I shall be very glad to make it.

MILITARY SERVICE ACT. 1917.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN moved concurrence in certain amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 75, respecting Military Service. He said: The amendments will be found on pages 885 and 886 of the Votes and Proceedings for the 9th of August. The first amendment is the insertion of the definition of the word "tribunal" in section 1. The amendment is merely this:

Tribunal means a tribunal constituted under this Act.

The next amendment is to section 7. Section 7 makes provision for appeals of tribunals. By inadvertence, when the Bill went through the House of Commons, there was no appeal tribunal provided for the Yukon Territory. The Senate has accordingly amended section 7 by the addition of subsection 2 in these words:

The Judge of the Territorial Court, or the person appointed in the place of the said judge under the provisions of the Yukon Act, shall constitute the Appeal Tribunal for the Yukon Territory.

The third amendment is one that was suggested in this House by an hon. gentleman on the other side, I think, the hon. member for North Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie), and which it was intended to insert before the Bill went through this House. It is an amendment to section 16 which provides penalties for certain contraventions of the Act and of the regulations. The amendment, which is by the addition of subsection 4 to section 16, is in these words:

No conviction in a court of criminal jurisdiction for an offence against this Act or the regulations made thereunder shall be had, unless the prosecution has been consented to or approved by the Attorney General of Canada.

It is not necessary that the approval of the Attorney General should be obtained before the prosecution is commenced. It is necessary, however, that that approval should be obtained before there is a conviction.

Mr. KNOWLES: I wish very respectfully to ask the Prime Minister why the consideration of these amendments has been delayed for so long, namely from the 9th to the 18th of August?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am not aware that there is any particular reason, except that other business has been engaging the attention of the House, from time to time, and in any event, there is really no delay as the Bill cannot go into operation until it receives the assent of the Governor General.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I did not expect this matter to come up to-day, and therefore I will ask my right hon. friend for information in regard to a matter with which he is perhaps more familiar than I am. What is the effect of the amendment in regard to the word "tribunal" so far as habeas corpus and the right of prerogative are concerned?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The amendment is merely a definition of the word "tribun-