

Migratory Birds Convention Act

My hon. friend also questions whether one of the answers given is correct. I think that is hardly a fair statement for him to make. I have every reason to believe that when a question is answered by the department it is answered honestly and sincerely.

Perhaps one way out of the difficulty would be for my hon. friend to go to the department, where he might possibly be given access to the figures without betraying any information which it is the practice of the department to treat as confidential. That perhaps might be better than making a demand in the way in which he did.

Mr. CANTLEY: If I can get the information by applying to the department, I shall be very glad to do so. So far as the information wrongly given, or possibly wrongly given, is concerned, I still think that there was an error on the part of the officer of the department.

Mr. EULER: That might very well be cleared up if my hon. friend would visit the department.

MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT

RESIGNATION OF INSPECTOR R. W. TUFTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. P. QUINN (Halifax): In the absence of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) I wish to draw the attention of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) to a despatch which appears in the Halifax Herald of May 9th last, from Wolfville, reading as follows:

"Intolerable political interference, which was such as to hamper effort to deal with major offences against the Migratory Birds Convention Act, based on agreement with United States," was given to-night by R. W. Tufts, inspector in the maritime district, for his resignation which has been forwarded to Ottawa. No answer has been received from the capital as yet as to the course which will be followed there.

"Recently my work has been hampered by intolerable political interference in my efforts to suppress some of the major offences against the Migratory Birds Convention Act. In these circumstances I felt obliged to tender my resignation, conditions being such as to seriously hamper my work in the protection of our wild life."

I ask the Prime Minister if it is the policy of this government to allow political interference in prosecuting offences under the Migratory Birds Act.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Not only is it the policy of the government not to permit the con-
[Mr. Euler.]

tinuance of political interference in these cases, but it is the government's policy not to permit political interference in any case.

Mr. W. G. ERNST (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, further in connection with the question asked by the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Quinn), may I inquire of the Prime Minister, in view of the statement made by Mr. Tufts, as to the cause of his resigning being political interference—a statement, by the way, which appears in both the Halifax Chronicle and the Halifax Herald—if he will have the department which is responsible, the Department of the Interior, table all correspondence in connection with Mr. Tufts' resignation.

Mr. DUFF: I am not guilty.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps the hon. member would put a motion on the order paper. I am sure that it will be granted.

Mr. ERNST: It is a matter reflecting on the government.

Mr. BENNETT: We will get the papers when the estimates are up.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am sure it will be granted.

NEW WESTMINSTER PENITENTIARY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. G. McQUARRIE (New Westminster): On the orders of the day yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), regarding a return which was ordered on May 14, 1928. On page 2433 of Hansard he is reported as making the following statement:

I will look into the matter, and if the return is ready, I shall be pleased to lay it on the table. But may I call the hon. member's attention to the fact that I do not think he has the right to criticize me, because, under the rules, a motion for a return drops after the session is over. If the motion has not been renewed this session, my hon. friend cannot get the papers as of right, although I will give them to him.

When I differed with his statement of the rule, he said:

Yes, I am correct, I will show my hon. friend Bourinot, Beauséjour and all the other authorities. I was reading them yesterday.

My hon. leader (Mr. Bennett) also differed with the Minister of Justice. I now ask the minister if he has looked through the authorities. I would refer him to standing order 81, which reads as follows:

A prorogation of the house shall not have the effect of nullifying an order or address of the