

Statutory Holidays

On section 1—*Dominion day.*

a point where he thinks he is safe, and it is very difficult to start rolling those prices back.

I want to assure the Prime Minister that we in this corner of the house, the Social Crediters, feel with him that war is not inevitable. We hope that by this time next year we can look back and say, well, we are glad we took the view that war was not inevitable. But at the same time I want to say this, Mr. Speaker: I am sure that one of the best ways of preventing the outbreak of a world conflict is to be ready to meet it if it is to come. There is no better way of getting ready to meet it than to have the government bolstered with the powers which it will require if the emergency should burst into open conflict throughout the world.

I agree that the time has come when we should be considering this whole matter of controls. We believe that the place of government in any country is to give protection to the individuals from encroachment upon their freedom, with all that the word "freedom" implies. Let me say, when we speak of freedom, it means more than freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from fear and freedom from want. It means freedom to carry on, as the leader of the opposition said, in a free economy; but it also means freedom to choose, and freedom to consume the goods and services that are produced in a country to be consumed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILL**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA ACT**

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William) moved the second reading of Bill No. 22, to amend the United Church of Canada Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS**PROPOSED OBSERVANCE OF DOMINION DAY AND VICTORIA DAY ON MONDAYS FOLLOWING JUNE 30 AND MAY 23**

Mr. J. L. MacDougall (Vancouver-Burrard) moved the second reading of Bill No. 2, to amend the Dominion Day Act and the Victoria Day Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Dion in the chair.

Mr. Knowles: I should like to ask a question with respect to this section, which would apply also to section 2. It is clear that the aim of the bill is to provide that these two summertime holidays shall be observed on Mondays in all cases. In the case of Dominion day the provision is that it shall be celebrated on the first Monday following the thirtieth day of June. If June 30 should fall on a Monday it would mean that the observance would not take place until July 7. I wonder if the hon. member has given consideration to providing that this holiday be celebrated on the Monday nearest to July 1?

Mr. MacDougall: I am glad the hon. member has brought that up. The purpose of the bill is not intended to destroy the holiday in any way. It is quite clear that this is not a bill to change the holiday as such; it is simply meant to change the observance of the holiday. I think everyone recognizes that when a holiday falls in mid-week there is a considerable disturbance of industrial output. A man with his wife and family may not be sufficiently possessed of the world's goods to take holidays abroad. There may be relatives within driving distance that he could visit with his family over a long week end, whereas if the holiday falls in the middle of the week he is unable to do so.

With respect to celebrating these holidays on Mondays, I think we should appreciate that in the case of confederation it was first of all enacted on a Monday. As far as May 24 is concerned, which is the celebration of the birthday of our late Queen Victoria, it might be noted that Her Majesty was born on a Monday.

Coming now to the question asked by the hon. member. Regardless of when the holiday itself may fall, mid-week, the first of the week or the latter part of the week, this bill provides that it will be celebrated on the following Monday. It will not take away one iota from the spirit surrounding these holidays. An added advantage will be a continuity of long week end holidays.

One great advantage of this measure is that it will not cost anything. Nothing is added to the cost of government or to the cost borne by the individual taxpayer. Another important fact to bear in mind is that when these holidays are celebrated on dates clearly and specifically set out in a bill we are bringing about something that the ordinary man and woman and their families will appreciate.

Mr. Pouliot: Will parliament sit on those Mondays?