

public service is sure to be required. I am not going to attempt to add one word to what has been said of the history and sacrifice which has been referred to, but only to express the hope that as day by day we pass within the shadow of the monument we have erected we may remember the service which Colonel Baker rendered to Canada, at a time of great national peril, and that we, too, may emulate his example in our everyday service.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to express to you our gratitude for the kindly thought which prompted you to give this opportunity to Harry Baker's neighbours to take a part in this great national gathering.

The audience joined in singing God Save the King.

Adjourned.

Tuesday, March 4, 1924

The House met at three o'clock.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Detailed statement of remissions of customs duties, excise taxes and sales taxes, year ended March 31, 1923—Hon. Mr. Copp.

Report of the Marine branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries for the fiscal year 1922-23—Hon. Mr. Cardin.

Copy of Radiotelegraph Act and regulations issued thereunder—Hon. Mr. Cardin.

Report of the Fisheries branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries—Hon. Mr. Cardin.

List of leases of Government wharves, piers, breakwaters for the year 1923—Hon. Mr. Cardin.

Summary of the harbour dues collected during the year 1923—Hon. Mr. Cardin.

HOME BANK INVESTIGATION

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. F. HEALY (North Essex): Is it the intention of the government to restrict the inquiry into the Home Bank affairs to the years mentioned in the order in council?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): In drafting the order in council to which the hon. gentleman refers, the government took cognizance of the petition which was presented to it by the depositors of the Home Bank. The subject matter that was referred to the commissioner is the statements that are set forth in the statement of the depositors of the Home Bank. The

government assumed that in referring to a commissioner allegations prepared and presented to the government by the depositors themselves, they were going as far, possibly as the depositors would think it necessary or advisable. Representations, however, have been made to the government that it might be advisable to extend the powers of the commissioner so as to include all the transactions of the Home Bank from the date mentioned down to the time of its failure, and the government intends to endow the commissioner with that power.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): The Prime Minister's language leaves indefinite the date back to which the investigation is to go. Is the government not prepared to have the investigation go back to the issue of the charter and the reasons and justification thereof?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The government is prepared to have the fullest possible investigation made, and if in the opinion of the commissioner it is advisable to go further than has been indicated, or if in the opinion of others it seems advisable so to do, the government will be prepared to take action accordingly in the public interest.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am prepared to give my opinion now. I know no justification at all for limiting the investigation to special years. If a commission should be appointed to do this work, it should go back to the initial venture and have the public know all the facts.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope I made it clear that the only reason why the government made any mention whatever in the order in council of the particular years was that those are the years that are specified in the petition which the depositors presented to the government, and it was in referring that petition to the commissioner that the government had occasion to mention the years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The public has an interest in the matter as well as the depositors.

Mr. H. C. HOCKEN (West Toronto): I would like to draw the attention of the government to the statement made by the liquidator that the Home Bank never had a banker as its manager, and I think that fact constitutes a strong argument for the investigation going back to the issue of the charter.

Hon. E. M. MACDONALD (Minister of National Defence): That is what is being done.