

The object in introducing this Bill in the Senate is to expedite consideration and to afford opportunity for all interested parties to be heard. With this object in view it is suggested that the Bill should be referred to the Railway Committee of the Senate in order that those interested may appear before it and make any necessary representations.

That is the statement which I desired to place on Hansard for the convenience of honourable members.

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I will now ask that the Bill be placed on the Order Paper for second reading to-morrow.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: I am quite agreeable to the motion. Indeed, were it not for the fact that the Bill is of major importance, and honourable senators would like to study it between now and to-morrow, and particularly to study the very excellent and very useful explanation which my honourable friend has just given, I would suggest that the second reading be taken now. I think we in this Chamber do not consider second reading of a Bill such an affirmation of its principles and purposes as to bind us to implement those principles or purposes in law in some form or other; not in the same degree, at all events, as in the other House.

It is most appropriate to introduce the Bill here, and I congratulate the Government, and particularly its honourable leader in this House, on doing so. We have the means and the time to give the public every opportunity to be heard. I venture to predict the public will not be slow to avail itself of the opportunity, for many and most important interests are affected by this measure and are apprehensive with respect to it.

I view the Bill sympathetically, hoping it can be made practicable. I only regret it cannot be given second reading now, so as to be referred to committee without delay.

On the motion for second reading I propose to offer a few comments, more with the idea of asking honourable members of the standing committee to keep them in mind while the various clauses are under review.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I take it for granted that the Bill will be distributed this evening or early to-morrow. If we give it second reading to-morrow, I need only say that it will be with the clear understanding that by so doing the Senate does not commit itself to whatever principle or principles are involved.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I hope the Bill will be printed and distributed to-morrow morning, and I particularly hope the explanation given to-day will appear in the Senate Debates some time in the morning. I have observed that the Senate Hansard comes out after the Commons' necessities have been looked after. That may be all right as a general rule, but this is a most important measure and I hope the Debates Office will see to it that we get our official report in good time for to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Sometimes after a long night's session the report is somewhat delayed because honourable members may wish to revise their speeches, but as this has been a short sitting I join with my right honourable friend in expressing the hope that we may have the Senate Hansard early in the morning.

The second reading of the Bill was placed on the Orders of the Day for to-morrow.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 3, 1937.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

TRANSPORT BILL—RAILWAY COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It is suggested that if the Bill which I introduced yesterday is given second reading before 5 o'clock, the Railway Committee should meet after this sitting of the Senate. No notice has been issued so far, because, of course, the Bill has not yet been referred to the committee, and I make this announcement in order that honourable senators may have an opportunity to be in attendance.

PRESS REPORTERS OF THE SENATE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. GILLIS presented the second report of the Standing Committee on Debates and Reporting, and moved concurrence therein.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Honourable senators, do you not think that we should have an opportunity of seeing what this report proposes? I thought I heard something about