

Tax on Sugar

Mr. ELLIOTT: No; I assume he has made a compilation of the treaties, and I should have expected the minister to have that compilation.

Mr. MURPHY: If the hon. member's knowledge of Malloy is not greater than it was of St. Regis I am afraid it is not very wide.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I can guarantee it would not be less than the minister's.

Mr. MURPHY: Yes, it is very much less.

Mr. ELLIOTT: I am reading a petition from the Indians who apparently know more about their rights than do the people who are trying to look after them. The appeal from the Caughnawaga Indians continues:

To make this admission still stronger that article was amplified by amendment of 1796, Mallory, p. 607, which provides that no treaty made or to be made by either party with another nation or with any other Indian tribe should be construed to deny those tribal rights. We therefore beg and pray that those treaties be maintained and recognized by Great Britain and her commonwealth and that the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs take into serious consideration our request that those laws dealing with the enfranchisement of the Six Nation Indians be not adopted and enforced upon him.

This document is signed by Mayor Joseph M. Lefebvre, and councillors.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie, the house adjourned at 11.02 p.m.

Monday, March 27, 1933

The house met at three o'clock.

COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS

Mr. A. U. G. BURY (East Edmonton) presented the first report of the select standing committee on standing orders and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

FIRST AND SECOND READING OF PRIVATE BILLS

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That for the remaining period of the session, all private bills, when presented, be read a first and second time forthwith, and that standing order 105 respecting the posting of private bills referred to the house be suspended.

[Mr. Murphy.]

This is the usual rule, made in like circumstances, having regard to the date which we have reached in the session.

Motion agreed to.

AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That the name of Mr. Hackett be substituted for that of Mr. Sproule on the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL—FIRST READING

Bill No. 56, respecting The Nipissing Central Railway Company.—Mr. Casselman.

TAX ON SUGAR

ALLEGED APPLICATION OF NEW RATE TO STOCKS ON HAND

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I have received many representations in protest against the alleged unfair action of wholesalers who are said to have anticipated the budget and in consequence have it is alleged reaped substantial profits through raising prices immediately on the stocks of sugar they have in hand.

The question of forestalling is a very difficult one to deal with. It has proved difficult and baffling to all governments, and up to the moment I know of no effective remedy which has been discovered to meet the situation. There is this to be said, that while there can never be an exact balance, the fact remains that when a tax is removed the reverse of this picture holds good, and the wholesaler on that occasion is out of pocket the amount of tax which is remitted, to the extent of the stock he has in hand.

I may say that all wholesalers have not been quite so fortunate, if the sugar wholesalers have been, because I know of one instance where one firm in one city borrowed \$18,000 for the purpose of paying the duty to take tea and coffee out of bond, in anticipation of this very thing happening, and in that instance they will be losers to the extent of the overstock in hand and the carrying charges in the meantime.

While it is doubtful whether a remedy can be found, I wish to take this early opportunity in the session to say that the matter will be most carefully inquired into, and if a remedy is available to meet the justice of the case it will be applied.

Mr. POULIOT: There is the peace, order and good government bill.