

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 20, 1950

The house met at three o'clock.

TRANSFER OF DUTIES

MERCHANT SEAMEN COMPENSATION ACT

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I should like to table copies of an order in council passed on the 17th of February transferring from the Department of Transport to the Department of Labour the administration of the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act, chapter 58 of the statutes of Canada, 1946.

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, to amend the Criminal Code (capital punishment).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Thatcher: The purpose of this bill is to abolish capital punishment in Canada and to substitute therefor life imprisonment.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 54, STATUTES OF 1947-48—VOLUNTARY REVOCABLE CHECK-OFF OF UNION DUES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, to amend the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act (voluntary revocable check-off).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, this bill will add a new subsection 3 to section 6 of the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act. The effect of the new subsection is to provide for the voluntary revocable check-off of trade union dues.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADA DAY ACT

SUBSTITUTION OF WORD "CANADA" FOR WORD "DOMINION"

Mr. A. Phileas Cote (Matapedia-Matane) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 4, respecting Canada day.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Cote (Matapedia-Matane): This bill is intended to repeal the Dominion Day Act and substitute therefor a Canada day act. The changes are in the title and section 2, where the word "Canada" is substituted for the word "Dominion". For the benefit of those who were not here in the last parliament I should like to inform them that the same bill was introduced in the House of Commons on the 27th day of March, 1946, and was passed on the 4th day of April, 1946.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS IN CHURCHILL AREA

Mr. P. E. Wright (Melfort) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Wright: The effect of this amendment would be to make the port of Churchill a basing point under the act, and place that port in the same position as Port Arthur, Fort William and Vancouver.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CROWN PROPERTIES

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES IN LIEU OF TAXES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Has the Minister of Finance received further representations in connection with the proposed payments to municipalities in lieu of taxes on federal properties? If so, is the government prepared to review its policy in the light of any such representations?

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): I have received a number of representations of one sort and another, but the policy announced by the government has not been altered as a result of those representations. I might add that regulations to implement the policy as announced have now been prepared, together with forms to be completed by the municipalities setting out information with respect to federal property in their jurisdictions. I hope those regulations will be adopted and made available in the course of a few days.