

## CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

### OFFICIAL REPORT

Friday, June 8, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

#### FIRST READING OF SENATE BILLS.

Bill No. 70, for the relief of Colin Darrach Poole.—Mr. Clarke (Essex).

Bill No. 71, for the relief of Thomas Edwin Jory.—Mr. Nickle.

Bill No. 72, for the relief of Florence Evaline Snyder Lockwood.—Mr. Kay.

#### THIRD READINGS.

Bill No. 47, to facilitate certain financial arrangements between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and for other purposes.—Sir Thomas White.

Bill No. 57, to amend The Business Profits War Tax Act, 1916.—Sir Thomas White.

Bill No. 59, to repeal the Ocean Telegraph Act.—Mr. Hazen.

Bill No. 67, to amend the Customs Act.—Mr. Reid.

#### CHINESE IMMIGRATION BILL.

On motion of Hon. W. J. ROCHE (Minister of the Interior), Bill No. 42, to amend the Chinese Immigration Act, was read the second time, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. Blain in the Chair.

On Section 1, Clergymen and students to be exempt from tax.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Has the Minister of the Interior received from the government of the province of British Columbia protest against this Bill?

Mr. ROCHE: No, there have been no protests.

Mr. LEMIEUX: There has been no correspondence?

Mr. ROCHE: Not that I am aware of.

Mr. MACDONALD: Can the minister tell us the language of the original statute in reference to this matter?

Mr. ROCHE: I have not the statute before me.

Mr. MACDONALD: Has the minister received from the coal mine proprietors of British Columbia, or any other employers of labour in British Columbia, any request for permission to bring in oriental labour?

Mr. ROCHE: Yes, there have been several requests made on behalf of certain employers of labour, in British Columbia, in the central provinces, and I think in the eastern provinces, asking that Chinese labour should be brought in, but the Government has not seen its way clear to adopt a policy of that kind under existing circumstances.

Mr. MACDONALD: What do these people say?

Mr. ROCHE: Some of the requests were to the effect that we should bring them in practically under an arrangement by which a guarantee was to be given that after the war was over they should be returned to their own country, but we did not think it was wise at the present time to adopt such a policy.

Mr. MACDONALD: Have there been many requests of that nature?

Mr. ROCHE: Not very many, possibly four or five, and certainly not in excess of half a dozen.

Mr. PUGSLEY: By whom were these requests made, and for what purpose?

Mr. ROCHE: There may have been some request made from the miners, I am not certain as to that. There was a deputation here about a week ago, consisting of members of the Board of Trade of Vancouver, who made a suggestion of that nature. Then one or two parties sent communications to the department; I cannot recollect their names, but I think some of this correspondence emanated from those who are not employers of labour, and not particularly interested, but making a suggestion

17733