

Birthday Congratulations to Dr. Beausnesne

THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. BEAUCHESNE ON HIS
BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN FRANCOIS POULIOT (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the house that today is the birthday of our Clerk, Doctor Beausnesne, who has been in office for a longer term than any other clerk in any parliament in the British empire. He is modest and unassuming. He is the light that shines behind the Chair. He is popular with all the members, and I am sure that my colleagues will join with me in wishing him a happy birthday and all sorts of good things on this day when he became seventy-two years young.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Clerk of the House will appreciate, from the applause which greeted the remarks of my hon. friend, that we are all pleased to have this opportunity of extending best wishes to him on his birthday anniversary and wishing him very many happy returns of the day.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is one time when I think all sides of the house can follow the lead of the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot); I am sorry that we cannot do it more often. May I, on behalf of my colleagues, join with those who have spoken in extending to the Clerk of the House our congratulations, our best wishes, and our hope that he may continue in his present office for many years to come.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I am very glad to be able to associate the members of this group with other hon. members in congratulations to the Clerk of the House and in the good wishes which have been extended to him.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, there has developed among men in our time a sort of notion that men lose their efficiency after they get to be about forty years of age. I rejoice that our Clerk, Doctor Beausnesne, has proved by a splendid example that this notion is completely fallacious. My impression is that Doctor Beausnesne has grown more efficient with the years. I am happy to be able to associate the Social Credit group with the good wishes that have been extended to him. I feel disposed to put into his mouth certain words of Browning in this connection. They are:

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

TRANSPORT BOARD

JUDGE OF EXCHEQUER COURT TO BE CHIEF
COMMISSIONER

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend the Railway Act, the Exchequer Court Act and the Judges Act, 1946, to authorize a judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada to hold the office of chief commissioner of the Board of Transport Commissioners for Canada at a salary of fifteen thousand dollars per annum less any salary received by him as a judge of the exchequer court; and to provide further that the exchequer court shall consist of the president and four puisne judges (in lieu of three), the salary of the puisne judges being twelve thousand dollars per annum.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Golding in the chair.

Mr. CHURCH: I should like to ask the minister a few questions on this amendment to the Judges Act, the Railway Act and the Exchequer Court Act. Does it interfere with the sittings of board of transport commissioners to be held in the Toronto city hall a week from today, at ten o'clock, to hear the application in connection with the Jones avenue crossing, described by a former commissioner as one of the most dangerous in Canada, the accident which took place on Sunday, and many other matters?

I notice that the exchequer court is to be increased to five judges, one of whom is to preside over the board of transport commissioners in the place of the present chief commissioner. I want to find out if the cases before this court are to be conducted from the exchequer court point of view. For example, some men with no experience have been appointed to this court. I understand that drastic changes are being proposed in the present Railway Act and in the Judges Act. The Judges Act should have been revised by a legal committee long ago. It is very largely obsolete.

With regard to the exchequer court, I am surprised at some of its recent decisions, and I do not see how the country is going to stand some of them. We have had several matters in our city concerning level crossings, serious accidents, and so on. People have been killed but we cannot get a hearing. The Railway Act sets out the powers, the functions and the duties of the board of railway commissioners, now called the board of transport commissioners. A valuable report and survey on railways was made in 1917 setting out what the functions of the transport board should be. There should be