

exempts sailing vessels and small boats; otherwise the Bill is practically the same as the one that I introduced last year.

Motion agreed to and the Bill read the first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS ACT.

AMENDMENT AS TO DELAY FOR BY-ELECTIONS AND DECLARING POLLING DAYS PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

Mr. S. W. JACOBS (George Etienne Cartier) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 9, to amend the House of Commons Act and to provide that polling days at elections shall be public holidays.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. JACOBS: This Bill is similar to one which I had the honour of bringing before the House at the last session, but as Government measures were given precedence early in the session, the Bill was not permitted to go through the necessary stages. It proposes to amend the House of Commons Act and it declares that within sixty days after the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery receives a warrant for the issue of a new writ for the election of a member, the writ in question shall issue. In other words, it provides that the election shall take place automatically within a fixed period after the electoral seat has been declared vacant.

The second provision of the Bill is that persons elected for two or more seats must declare within a specified time for which seat they will serve. A penalty of \$200 is provided for each day that then elapses during which the member has not declared for which seat he intends to serve.

Mr. BELAND: What is the time specified?

Mr. JACOBS: Thirty days. Finally, there is a provision which declares that polling day shall be a public holiday, both at general elections and at by-elections.

I may say that about ten years ago the present Prime Minister, who was at that time leading the then Opposition, brought in a Bill similar to the one which I have the honour of introducing to-day. For various reasons the Bill was not proceeded with, but as the Prime Minister was in

favour of the Bill at that time, and I have no reason to believe that he has changed his views on the subject, I confidently look forward to having support for this measure from the Government benches. I am sure that it will receive support from this side of the House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CANADIAN TRADE MISSION IN LONDON.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. JACOBS: I should like to ask the Government whether the Canadian Trade Mission in London is about to be abolished. I base my question on a report which appeared in the newspapers last evening to the effect that Mr. Lloyd Harris, chairman of the Trade Mission, has stated that Canadian trade, if properly handled, can continue to increase independently of Government control; and the report goes on to say that this creates the assumption that the Mission is about to be abolished. Has the Government any information to convey to the House on the subject?

Hon. Mr. DOHERTY: There has been no decision to abolish the Canadian Trade Mission.

CANADIAN CREDIT TO ROUMANIA.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE: I should like to put a question to the financial authority of the Government, whoever that may be at present, concerning our advance to Roumania. I read in the press recently that the \$25,000,000 which we voted as a credit to Roumania has been exhausted and that we have no security or anything in the shape of security for the payment of that amount. Is it true that we have expended the \$25,000,000, and if so, what security in the way of bonds or negotiable instruments of any kind have we in respect of that amount?

Hon. Mr. DOHERTY: I shall communicate the hon. gentleman's question to the Minister of Finance with a view to giving him the information that he asks for.