

Lack of Confidence Vote

8. During the last completed annual accounting period what was the number of way freight trains operated, their mileage and earnings, from the cities of Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton, on the Canadian National Railways?

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

LINDSAY MARKET SCALES

Mr. THURSTON:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams and other documents exchanged between the Department of Inland Revenue, any officer of the said department, or any other department of the government, and the scale inspector at Lindsay, Ontario, or any other person or persons, relative to the Lindsay Market Scales or Lindsay Market Clerk and District Inspector F. D. Diamond of Belleville or Senior Inspector G. H. Howson, of Peterboro.

NOVA SCOTIA STATUTE, 1922

Mr. HANSON:

For a copy of all memoranda, opinions, letters, reports and other documents, including reports to Council and Orders in Council, relating to any Nova Scotia statute in 1922.

DISALLOWANCE OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

Sir HENRY DRAYTON:

For a copy of all memorandums, opinions and reports made by different Ministers of Justice or their deputies, from January 1, 1904, to date, on the question of disallowance of provincial legislation and disallowance of provincial acts and laying down the principles which justify the exercise of the provincial acts.

CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN:

For a return giving a list of all appointments made or nominations to appointments made by the Civil Service Commission since January 1, 1922, with the names of the persons appointed or nominated in all cases where such appointments or nominations have not been followed by the appointee or person nominated actually taking the position, also showing in each case who is occupying the position which the appointee of the commission is not occupying, and also showing the instances where the appointee of the commission was a returned soldier.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN:

For a copy of all correspondence, writings, telegrams, and other documents passing from the government or the Canadian National Railways since August 1, 1922, having to do with the taking up of rails on the Hudson's Bay Railway?

CATTLE TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN:

For a copy of all correspondence, writings, documents, and as well a complete statement of regulations and conditions and full arrangements entered into between representatives of Canada and representatives of Great Britain in respect of the admission of Canadian store cattle and Canadian breeding cattle into Great Britain.

[Mr. Graham.]

LACK OF CONFIDENCE VOTE

PROPOSED AS NECESSARY TO FORCE GOVERNMENT RESIGNATION

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Calgary East) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, a defeat of a government measure should not be considered as a sufficient reason for the resignation of the government, unless followed by a vote of lack of confidence.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it might be truly said that this resolution is for the good and welfare of the House. As the hon. members of this House will notice, it deals with a situation in which every individual member is to some extent interested, some more and some less. I heard an hon. member of this House quote an American statesman a few days ago, to the effect that we were not dealing with a theory but with a condition. My resolution does not deal with any theory but with an actual condition; and I am disposed to think that if there is any objection offered to the passing of this resolution it will have to be offered on theoretical grounds, for I believe it would be difficult to maintain by argument that there is anything of real democratic value to be gained by the continuance of the practice against which this resolution declares. The condition with which we are dealing is that in the process of development our system of government has finally come to be government by a cabinet. Here it will be unnecessary, I hope, to explain that I am not making any reference to the present government or the present cabinet; I am dealing with the system of government and the practices appertaining thereto. Parliament has lost its old supremacy, if indeed it ever really was supreme. The course of our constitutional development has been one leading from an absolute autocracy on to that measure of democracy which we now enjoy, some may argue that parliament is as supreme to-day as it has ever been, which if true, would simply prove that parliament has yet to attain its supremacy, for certain it is that we have now government by cabinet.

When we consider the development of our constitutional system, it is not to be wondered at if we find there are still influences of autocracy present, for every bit of the freedom which we now enjoy has been slowly and laboriously wrenched from autocracy. Indeed, it is clear that it would be difficult for us to be completely rid of those influences. Parliament to-day, I maintain, is dominated by the cabinet through the party caucus, and much of our boasted democratic liberty is pure theory. Theoretically, the Cabinet is responsible to parliament, and parliament, in turn, is