

Trading with the Enemy

the principal officer in charge in both places at the present time is a chargé d'affaires and not an ambassador.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is there a possibility that shortly that will be remedied?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: All I can say is that we were told that the matter was under consideration by the foreign minister of the Soviet republic. We have his assurance that the matter is under consideration.

Motion (Mr. Abbott) agreed to, and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Mr. MACKENZIE: As announced by the Prime Minister about two weeks ago, it is the intention to call two departments just for the purpose of getting them into supply, not for the purpose of discussion. I suggest that we call the Department of Agriculture, item 1, departmental administration, and that the vote stand; and External Affairs, item 41, departmental administration, and that the vote stand. If that meets with the consent of committee, I would then move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. Departmental administration, \$163,190.
Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

41. Departmental administration, \$767,480.
Item stands.

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

MILITIA ACT

AMENDMENTS TO FACILITATE CANADIAN ARMY
REORGANIZATION—CONCURRENCE IN
SENATE AMENDMENTS

The house resumed, from March 25, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie for the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the senate to Bill No. 14, to amend the Militia Act.

Motion agreed to, amendments read the second time and concurred in.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

INSPECTION AND SALE ACT

INSPECTION AND GRADING OF FLAX FIBRES

Right Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs, for Mr. Gardiner) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the senate to Bill No. 8, to amend the Inspection and Sale Act, 1938.

Motion agreed to, amendments read the second time and concurred in.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

EMERGENCY POWERS—DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY, ETC.

Hon. COLIN GIBSON (Secretary of State) moved the second reading of Bill No. 22, to continue the revised regulations respecting trading with the enemy (1943).

He said: Mr. Speaker, when the resolution preceding this bill was under consideration we had a considerable amount of discussion on the duties and responsibilities of the office of custodian, and at that time I made a statement as to the need for the proposed legislation. Since the bill was not in the hands of hon. members, it could not be considered at the resolution stage; but, as I pointed out, the bill itself contains regulations which it is considered necessary to continue, and those regulations which were passed during the war but could be dispensed with have been dropped.

During the discussion on the resolution, hon. members felt that they should have a report from the custodian of enemy property. That report has been tabled, together with the reports of the auditors who have examined the custodian's accounts. After the bill has received its second reading, it is proposed to refer it to the public accounts committee for consideration so that the fullest possible information can be supplied to hon. members as to the work that has been carried on in the custodian's office. At one time it was proposed that we should refer the bill to a smaller committee. However it has been felt that the public accounts committee is the one to which it should be referred; and whether it is desired to appoint a smaller subcommittee to deal with the matter is within their discretion.

On the resolution stage I referred to the provisions of the bill and the necessity for it, and I do not think there is any need for me to go into a long discussion on it at this time.

Mr. DONALD M. FLEMING (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, the indication on the part of the government that the bill, after second reading, is to be referred to the standing committee on