

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, September 16, 1949

The house met at three o'clock.

BRITISH EMPIRE SERVICE LEAGUE

WELCOME TO DELEGATES TO TENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Speaker: No doubt hon. members have noticed in the press that the tenth biennial conference of the British Empire Service League is now being held in Ottawa. A number of distinguished delegates to this conference are with us this afternoon and are now seated in the south gallery. I am confident that you would like me to extend to them on your behalf a very warm welcome to our midst.

Delegates have come to Canada from some twenty-one different countries of the commonwealth. Those who are with us this afternoon represent the following countries: Antigua, Australia, England, Gold Coast, India, Ireland (northern area); Ireland (southern area); Malaya, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Nyasaland, Pakistan, Rhodesia, Scotland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Wales.

You will notice that the delegation is made up of both men and women. These delegates, together with the delegates of our own Canadian legion, are under the outstanding leadership of their chairman, Lieutenant General Sir John Brown. I can assure them that they are indeed welcome guests to Canada, and I have pleasure in expressing to them on your behalf the earnest hope that their deliberations will prove of far-reaching benefit to the many hundreds of thousands of ex-service men and women who have so valiantly and well served in His Majesty's armed forces.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

(For list of departmental and other reports tabled, see *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 2, of September 16, 1949.)

INCOME TAX

QUESTION AS TO ALLOWANCE OF TRADE UNION DUES AS DEDUCTION FROM TAXABLE INCOME

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to direct a question either to the Minister of Finance or the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the

recent favourable decision by the exchequer court, what action will the government take to provide for the allowing of trade union dues as a deduction from taxable income for income tax purposes?

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): I thank the hon. member for having given notice of his question. I shall give him an answer early next week.

TARIFFS AND TRADE

ANNEXY CONFERENCE—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Victor Quelch (Acadia): I desire to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would it be possible for him to table the report of the proceedings of the conference held at Annecy?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The results of the tariff negotiations conducted at Annecy will be made public on or about the 10th of October by the United Nations, and at that time will be published also in the various capitals of the countries represented at the conference. In addition to those already tabled, documents arising out of the operation of the general agreement on tariffs and trade will be tabled in this house in due course.

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT AS TO CANADIAN DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Graydon (Peel): In view of the fact that tomorrow the North Atlantic council meets in Washington, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs care to indicate the composition of the Canadian delegation to that council, and also in general what position our delegation will take at this very important meeting?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The hon. gentleman was good enough to give me notice of this question. It is true that the North Atlantic council will hold its first session tomorrow morning in Washington. Canada will be represented at that meeting by myself as Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I shall be