

communications, and all applications, ratings, examinations and reports on same, and generally all documents or papers in the custody or under the control of the Department of Public Works, or Civil Service Commission, or any other department or organization connected with the government, respecting the leave of absence and the retirement of the former caretaker of the public building at Shelburne, Nova Scotia, the appointment of a temporary caretaker to fill the vacancy in said position, and the appointment of a permanent caretaker to that position.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with respect to that portion of the motion which calls for the production of papers in the possession of the Civil Service Commission, perhaps it will be within the memory of the house that the extent of our jurisdiction to order the production of papers from that body has not been definitely decided. With the understanding that such papers as the commission may furnish the government will be laid upon the table, there is no objection to the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the reservation made by the Prime Minister the motion will carry.

Motion agreed to.

## IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

### PARTICIPATION OF IRISH FREE STATE—NEWSPAPER DESPATCH

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): It was suggested the other day that the newspaper report to which reference had been made, indicating that a certain attitude might be taken by the Dominion government with regard to the proposed economic conference, was similar to despatches appearing in at least two or three other newspapers. I have taken the trouble to secure the report appearing in the Toronto Star, as well as the reports appearing in the Toronto Telegram and the Montreal Daily Herald, and I find a very substantial difference between the reports in these several papers.

The article in the Montreal Herald is by Robert Lipsett, special correspondent of the Montreal Herald, and it does not give the views that are attributed to the government in the report appearing in the Toronto Star. The article in the Toronto Telegram is very short, and in neither the Telegram nor the Herald does the report appear under a large headline, as is the case in the Toronto Star. In the issue of the Star of March 29 this article has a very important place. There is also a very vital difference in the substance of the reports, the one indicating the pos-

sibility of a boycott, while no such indication appears in the other reports.

Apparently there may have been a common foundation for these reports, but whether in the process of transmission to the several newspapers the reports were altered I cannot say, but at least they do not appear the same in their printed form. I have endeavoured to ascertain the source of the information but I cannot speak with any degree of certainty as to the source from which it emanated.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): With respect to the Imperial economic conference, may I ask whether the Prime Minister would consider setting apart, at the convenience of the government, a day for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the conference. If one or two days were set apart for that purpose I believe it would meet the wishes of all sides of the house.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): There is an item in the estimates for an appropriation to defray the expenses of the conference, and it occurred to me that this might offer an opportunity for a very full discussion by the house. If it took a longer or a shorter time than might at present be contemplated, it would be quite all right. It would perhaps be inadvisable to set aside a day, but opportunity will be afforded to take as much time as might be desired for the purpose of discussing every aspect of the conference, upon that vote being considered by the house. We shall make special arrangements to endeavour to meet that view.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is wholly satisfactory provided my right hon. friend will see that the item is not brought on too late in the session.

Mr. BENNETT: It is in the main estimates.

## THE BUDGET

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Minister of Finance whether he is in a position to make an announcement as to the day on which he will bring down the budget?

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): The budget will be brought down on Wednesday.