

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 11, 1948

The house met at three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

FAILURE OF BOILERS IN CENTRAL HEATING PLANT

Mr. SPEAKER: I consider it my duty to inform the house that this morning I received many calls from hon. members complaining of the temperature in this building. Some hon. members suggested to me that under the prevailing conditions there should be no sitting of the house this afternoon. Hon. members will realize that it is for the house itself to decide whether we should sit or not.

I communicated with those who are responsible for the heating of the building and was informed that there had been an accident in the central heating plant, but they hoped that sometime about noon or one o'clock today they would be able to send some steam into the chamber. Just before coming into the house at three o'clock I was told that unfortunately the repairs had not yet been made, and that it would be impossible to heat the building this afternoon. I thought it my duty therefore to bring the facts to the attention of the house. The temperature in this chamber is now about 64 degrees, and in some parts of the building it is only 60.

I thought that before we proceeded with the business of the house hon. members would like to know these facts so that the house might decide whether there should be a sitting this afternoon. Those who have been complaining about the temperature cannot expect any improvement this afternoon.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that it would be well if we could have our sittings in Vancouver?

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works): Before the house comes to a hasty decision as to whether we should sit or not, I should like to make the following statement.

On account of the unduly severe weather that has prevailed during the present week it

was necessary to force the capacity of the plant to the extreme limit, and under such circumstances one boiler failed. The central heating plant is composed of six boilers, all of which are connected to a central manifold, and they have been used and have met the demands imposed upon them even with the additional temporary construction that was put up during wartime. One boiler failed in a minor way at midnight on the 9th, and it was necessary to close this one down to make repairs. While these repairs were under way, the other five boilers were under additional pressure and the second boiler failed after midnight. Both repairs are not what might be considered serious. They can be corrected temporarily, and it is hoped that one boiler will be back on the line in an hour or so, and the other one will be ready by tomorrow morning.

These are circumstances over which we have little or no control as they are brought about by reason of severe weather. While the plant is overhauled between heating seasons, it is found that today the scarcity of materials makes it difficult to replace with new parts the wear and tear that has ordinarily taken place; and, in substitution, wear and tear has been replaced by welding and other processes to tide over until such time as it is possible to make adequate renewals.

At present we have working on the building the Campbell Steel and Iron Works and the staff of the public works department. The last information I received was that during the afternoon we shall have the ordinary temperature in the building.

OLEOMARGARINE

INQUIRY AS TO REMOVAL OF EMBARGO UNDER GENEVA AGREEMENTS

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. It arises out of the fact that we have on the order paper a bill to amend the Dairy Industry Act with regard to oleomargarine. My question is this. Did the