

GRAND TRUNK GRATUITIES

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend asked me for a copy of the order in council appointing Mr. Congdon a commissioner to inquire into the Grand Trunk gratuities. I now lay a copy of the order in council on the Table.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 1923

The House met at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Bill No. 145 (from the Senate), for the relief of Mabel Gertrude Johnston.—Mr. Mewburn.

Bill No. 146, (from the Senate), for the relief of Wilfrid Charles Brown.—Mr. Chew.

Bill No. 147 (from the Senate), for the relief of Gertrude Andrews.—Mr. Church.

Bill No. 148 (from the Senate), for the relief of William Henry Davidson.—Mr. McKay.

Bill No. 149 (from the Senate), for the relief of George Robert Webb.—Mr. Ross (Kingston).

Bill No. 150 (from the Senate), for the relief of Katharine Bryans.—Mr. Church.

THE BUDGET

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir HENRY DRAYTON (West York): May I ask my hon. friend the Minister of Finance if he has fixed the date for the delivery of the budget?

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance): If my hon. friend will permit me, I hope during the week to fix a definite date. I would rather not do it to-day.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It will not be this week?

Mr. FIELDING: It will not be this week.

U.S. LABOUR DELEGATES DETAINED

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Has the Acting Minister of Immigration any further information to give the House with respect to the Howat case?

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization): I am awaiting further information. I expect that my decision will be given this afternoon.

FRENCH TREATY

BILL TO RATIFY CONVENTION READ THE THIRD TIME

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of Bill No. 23, respecting a certain Convention of Commerce between His Majesty and the French Republic.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—DISALLOWANCE OF NOVA SCOTIA STATUTE

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance): Intimation was given that, following the third reading of the French treaty we would proceed to consider the Italian treaty to-day. That, however, has been laid aside. I move that the House do now resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON (West York): I desire to avail myself of the opportunity afforded by this motion to move the following amendment:

That all the words after the word "that" be struck out and the following be substituted therefor:

"In the opinion of this House the disallowance of the statute enacted by the legislature of the province of Nova Scotia, being chapter 177 of the statutes enacted in the year 1921, was an abuse of the Dominion's powers of disallowance, such statutes being entirely intra vires of the province and not interfering with any matter the subject of Dominion policy or administration."

The consideration of this motion involves going, at some little length, into the question of the veto power and where we stand in connection with it. The veto power, as all members, I think, are very well aware, came into our constitutional system as part of the gradual process of granting by the sovereign of the right of government of constitutional assemblies. There has been a reservation here, there, and everywhere almost, in connection with this matter of veto and disallowance. In Canada we start the right of veto at the bottom and go on up to the top. We have the right of veto in the Dominion in so far as the provinces are concerned; the right of veto in the British authorities in so far as the Dominion is concerned; and the right of veto in the sovereign in so far as the Imperial parliament is concerned. The history of vetoing is an interesting one. It is very interesting, because, for example, the first two counts in the American Declaration of Independence against his Britannic Majesty were founded upon the use of this power of disallowance or veto. We have had the same thing in Canada ourselves—protests