

supply, to provide for five-twelfths of the moneys that ordinarily would be asked for. I believe it would be advisable to set up the usual committee, which I think has been very useful in the past. I will discuss with my honourable friend in the interval between now and our session next week the advisability and desirability of setting up that committee. If it is the wish of the House that the committee be set up, I see no objection to it; in fact, I think it would be of advantage.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: It may be, honourable senators, that this Chamber is quite willing to vote whatever amount may be asked for—I understand it is over \$2,000,000—without any discussion or information, but I would be rather amazed if this were so. However, I shall be very glad to discuss the matter with the honourable leader.

There is no desire on the part of myself or of any other honourable member of this Chamber to delay the voting of necessary supply, but the sum required is a large one and there will be many items that honourable members would like to have explained. The vote may have passed the other Chamber before we meet next week, in which event the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Defence might be available to furnish information to our committee.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 21, 1945

The Senate met at 3 p.m. the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### EMERGENCY SITTINGS OF THE SENATE

#### MOTION

Hon. Mr. KING moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Copp:

That for the duration of the present session of Parliament, should an emergency arise during any adjournment of the Senate, which would in the opinion of the Honourable the Speaker warrant that the Senate meet prior to the time set forth in the motion for such adjournment, the Honourable the Speaker be authorized to notify honourable senators at their addresses as registered with the Clerk of the Senate to meet at a time earlier than that set out in the motion for such adjournment, and non-receipt

Hon. Mr. KING.

by any one or more honourable senators of such call shall not have any effect upon the sufficiency and validity thereof.

The motion was agreed to.

### HORSES IN TRANSIT ALLEGED MUTILATION

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. R. B. HORNER: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I have a matter of importance to the farmers of Western Canada, and particularly to our breeders of horses, which I should like to bring to your attention.

The Montreal Standard contains a rather humorous article on what is said to have happened to a shipment of horses. A friend of mine in the West sent eighteen horses to the East, and while en route the tails of sixteen of them were cut off very short. The farmer took action against the Canadian National Railways, and the trial judge awarded him \$12.50 for each animal injured. The Canadian National Railways then appealed to the King's Bench division of the Superior Court, which dismissed the appeal, but the company has refused to settle.

We have often had horse buyers out in the West, and we have been very glad to see them there. Speaking from my own long years of experience in shipping, I may say for the information of honourable members that in early days it was customary for the stock-grower to travel along with his carload of horses, but in later years the railways have done everything they could to discourage that practice, because it sometimes necessitated putting on a passenger coach specially for one man. The practice nowadays is to have railway employees feed and care for the horses at various stopping points, so the railway assumes full responsibility while the animals are in transit to Montreal.

It seems to me that this newspaper article is bad advertising for our publicly-owned railroad, and I have brought the matter before this House in the hope that the honourable leader of the Government will in turn bring it to the attention of the Minister of Transport. The farmer in this case has been put to a good deal of unnecessary expense. The amount awarded him by the lower court's decision, which has now been affirmed by the Appeal Court, is inadequate. He will have to keep these horses another year and a half, which is the time that it takes for a tail to grow, unless in the meantime he is willing to sell the horses at a sacrifice because they are disfigured. I should like to see this man receive the compensation to which he is entitled.