

THE SENATE

Saturday, June 9, 1928.

The Senate met at 10.30 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

CANADA'S REPRESENTATIVE

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I should like to ask my honourable friend who is representing Canada at the present meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Honourable Philippe Roy, our representative at Paris.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: And under instructions, special, or general, from the Government?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: All I can say is that I was informed as to the matters on the agenda, and I found that there were but two questions, namely, the Hungarian Optants in Transylvania, and the importation of contraband materials of war into Hungary contrary to the terms of the Treaty of Trianon, which was discussed at the last meeting, while another Canadian representative sat in the Council. I felt it my duty to inform the Hon. Mr. Roy in a summary manner as to the discussions and conclusions with regard to these matters. I have reason to believe that they will not be finally disposed of at this sitting.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The Leader of the Senate will permit me to say that he personally was certain that the Council of the League of Nations would follow the usual practice and postpone to the greek calends any embarrassing questions.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Of course, my honourable friend would much prefer that there should be no such unions, where Governments meet, and that matters should continue to drift, as they drifted before the war, and end even in chaos.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, there are no Orders of the Day, and the Senate, having finished its labours, is awaiting legislation from the House of Commons. It is very difficult to prognosticate

when the labours of the other House will end; but the Senate is in attendance. I suggest, with the concurrence of this honourable House, seconded by the right honourable gentleman from Eganville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham), that the Senate suspend its sitting till half-past two this afternoon, because then we will know whether there is a likelihood of prorogation to-day. If there is not, we may then adjourn to Monday of next week.

Hon. G. G. FOSTER: Honourable gentlemen, I certainly have no intention or desire to dictate the time to which we should or will adjourn, but it seems to me that it is not dignified for this House to sit here hour by hour and day by day, waiting to be told that at a certain time we are to be called upon to prorogue Parliament. If at 4 or 5 o'clock this afternoon the House of Commons is going to send to this Chamber the bundle of Estimates and appropriations that I have heard of, I hardly think it is fair to ask us to consider them on such short notice. If my honourable friend would move the adjournment of the Senate until Monday or Tuesday, regardless of what is done in another place, and in anticipation of the rumours on the street and elsewhere that Parliament is not going to prorogue to-day, we would have an opportunity of studying measures that are altogether too important to be dealt with in the short time that will be at our disposal before the Governor General arrives. I understand that some private legislation of very great importance to the part of the country which I come from has run out. I think the honourable gentleman might very well ask that the House adjourn until Monday.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend will recognize that it has been our practice, when we are through with our work, to await the good pleasure of the Commons, at the same time not forgetting what we ourselves owe to the country. My suggestion is that we should meet again at half-past two. If we are told then that the Commons will finish their labours and send to us the Supply Bill, say at 5 o'clock—it is the only Bill I expect to see coming from the Commons—then it will be for the Senate to decide whether it has enough time, as it generally has had in the past, to discuss the Bill. If the Senate feels, when it sees the Supply Bill, that it needs a day or two to discuss it, it is supreme and will decide accordingly. I would urge my honourable friend not to insist, before we know what work is coming, that we should adjourn until next week. If