

The following senators have been selected as members of the committee: Hon. Senator Dandurand, Right Hon. Senator Meighen, Hon. Senators Buchanan, Calder, Coté, Haig, King, Marcotte, Murdock and Raymond.

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

THE SENATE

Wednesday, July 31, 1940.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Acting Speaker (Hon. A. B. Copp) in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT BILL

PROPOSED CONFERENCE WITH COMMONS

The Senate proceeded to consider a message from the House of Commons with respect to an amendment made by the Senate to Bill 25, an Act to amend the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, 1934.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved:

Resolved that a message be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint that House that the Senate accedes to its request for a Free Conference with the Senate for the purpose of considering a certain amendment made by the Senate to Bill 25, intituled: "An Act to amend the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, 1934," to which the House of Commons has disagreed, and upon which the Senate insists.

That the Senate has appointed the Honourable Senators Calder, Beaubien (Montarville) and Haig as managers on its part at the said Free Conference, and

Also that the managers of the Free Conference on the part of the Senate will meet in Senate Committee Room No. 258, at nine o'clock, p.m.

And that a message be sent to the House of Commons accordingly.

He said: Honourable members, it will be recalled that the three managers on behalf of the Senate voted in favour of the amendment. It is the opinion of my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) that therefore they are entitled to represent the views of the majority in this Chamber. I might have suggested an honourable senator on this side who voted against the amendment, but I will leave to the honourable gentlemen named the responsibility of presenting to the managers for the House of Commons the point of view of the Senate.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, there are two points to which attention might be called, both of which have been referred to by the leader of the House.

This is a question on which there was a division of opinion in both Houses. The House of Commons, in appointing managers, chose all three of them from among the majority in that House, a very considerable majority, which was opposed to the amendment. That seemed to me to make it essential that the three managers to be appointed by the Senate should all be chosen from among the majority in this House. Otherwise there would at once be a division in the conference of four to two. This accounts for all three managers for this House being chosen from the majority.

As to the majority in this House, I think every member but one on this side voted for the amendment, as did also a substantial number of the other side. The three chosen are all from this side. I simply want to make it clear that I was quite willing, and so expressed myself to the leader of the House, that one be chosen from among those on the other side who supported the amendment.

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: In the House of Commons were the managers chosen from both sides?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No. That is what I have just explained. I have read the debate, and if I remember rightly, no vote was taken, but all three members chosen were from among those who opposed the amendment.

The motion was agreed to.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 113, an Act to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.

The Bill was read the first time.

MOTION FOR SECOND READING POSTPONED

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I have not seen this Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: With the leave of the House, I would move that the second reading of this Bill be put down for to-morrow.

The motion was agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 2

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 122, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1941.

The Bill was read the first time.