

*Admiralty Act*

This is why I rise in this debate, to say that I do hope we will not have to continue the federal system by continually giving way to ultimatums. I think as a matter of principle there should be a co-operative approach. I think this approach could have been achieved, and I feel very unhappy at this moment that we have to accept today these amendments to this act. But in accepting them, and feeling unhappy as I do, I hope the government will not fail to carry out the primary function of this birthday celebration, but will use the years and the months which remain to build up in Canada a knowledge of what has gone into the country, so that we can dedicate ourselves to the principle more successfully to carry out the future before us.

Resolution as amended reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Lamontagne** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-107, to amend the National Centennial Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, before the next item is called, so that there would be no misunderstanding, I wonder if it could be understood that the bill which has just been given first reading, and which is in fact already printed, I believe, could be presented in the form in which it was printed so as to enable us to get on with the work tomorrow, and that the corrections consequent upon the resolution could be deemed to be made in the bill, so that it is regularized and the matter thereby not held over for another day?

**Mr. Knowles:** I am sure the suggestion made by the Secretary of State will be acceptable, unless it is possible to print the bill overnight. My friends over at the printing bureau work fast and I am sure they could do it if necessary.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If it is possible, it will be done, but I should like to be doubly sure we do not have a lot of difficulty about a technical point tomorrow.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** When shall the said bill be read a second time? Next sitting of the house?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**ADMIRALTY ACT****AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARIES OF JUDGE AND REGISTRAR**

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (for the Minister of Justice)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Admiralty Act to permit the governor in council to authorize the payment of a salary not

[Mr. Hamilton.]

exceeding four hundred dollars per annum to a surrogate judge in admiralty and a salary not exceeding three hundred dollars per annum to a registrar in admiralty.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee, Mr. Batten in the chair.

**Mr. Macdonald:** The purpose of this resolution is to make provision for the emoluments and remuneration of a number of administrative officers who are responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Admiralty Act. I may say briefly to the committee that the subject of navigation and shipping has, under the British North America Act, been made the responsibility of the parliament of Canada and pursuant to this responsibility the parliament of Canada has enacted the Admiralty Act. In so doing it set up as the court responsible for admiralty proceedings the Exchequer Court of Canada and by the same statute it divided the country into eight admiralty districts coextensive with the eight Canadian provinces which have a salt water coast line. Courts have been set up in each province for this purpose and as a matter of practice the administrative officials responsible for the functioning of the courts have commonly been employees of the provincial governments of the provinces. The two particular positions referred to in this resolution, that of surrogate judge and registrar, while provided for in the Admiralty Act were positions for which no remuneration was provided.

It has been found difficult in recent years, due to the low tariff and the comparative paucity of business, to provide through the fees sufficient remuneration to pay to these officials not only a return for the time and thought involved in the performance of these duties but even the actual cost of maintaining the admiralty records. The practice heretofore has been for the registrar and the surrogate judge to retain for themselves the fees received in accordance with the general tariff and the rules and orders under the Admiralty Act. The purpose of the bill proposed in this resolution is to permit the governor in council to authorize the payment of a salary to each surrogate judge in admiralty and each registrar in admiralty, respectively, of \$400 and \$300 per annum. In other words, the officials will be paid these emoluments; and the fees in question, which hitherto have been their emoluments, will be paid into the consolidated revenue fund. My information is that this resolution is in substantially the same form as that in which it appeared on the order paper last year.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Pickersgill (for Mr. Chevrier)** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-108, to amend the Admiralty Act.