

*Supply—External Affairs*

just what might be necessary to constitute proprietorship in the crown in the right of the dominion.

Item agreed to.

To portion of expenditure of the imperial economic committee and the imperial shipping committee for 1938, \$18,690.

Mr. GREEN: Would the minister explain the work of these two committees?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As my hon. friend knows, these are committees that are set up in London, the memberships being made up of representatives of the different parts of the empire. The one committee deals with economic questions, the other with questions pertaining to shipping that affect several parts of the empire. The Canadian representatives on the imperial economic committee are Colonel Vanier and Mr. M. F. Hudd. The work of the committee is mainly the collection and presentation of economic information relating to different commodities or groups of commodities, the general purpose being to throw light on the competition which empire countries are likely to meet. This is done through reports to governments on subjects within the terms of the committee's reference, such as the issue of economic information on the production, trade and consumption of particular commodities. The commercial intelligence service of the committee covers canned and dried fish notes, dairy products' notes and the publication of world surveys of production, trade and consumption of selected commodities, for example, cattle and beef, mutton and lamb and so on. World surveys on apple, pear and fig production are under preparation. Inquiries made at the time of the last imperial conference indicated that the different governments were making an extensive use of the trade information and statistical services of the imperial economic committee.

The Canadian representative on the imperial shipping committee is the high commissioner for Canada. In his absence, he is represented by Mr. MacLeod of Canada house. It may be noted that among the inquiries of the imperial shipping committee involving questions of interest to Canada are Pacific shipping, marine insurance, Hudson bay and St. Lawrence river routes and communication with the British isles.

Mr. GREEN: What is the situation in connection with the purchase of new boats for the Canada-Australia-New Zealand service?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That particular matter would come under the Department of

[Mr. Bennett.]

Trade and Commerce. It was a subject of consideration some time ago by the imperial shipping committee. The Minister of Trade and Commerce would be the one to report on the progress of negotiations. I may say to my hon. friend that the matter is subject to negotiations at the present time which have not been completed.

Mr. GREEN: Did this imperial shipping committee report in favour of new boats being required for this service?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The imperial shipping committee is a fact-finding body. It does not report for or against a project; it rather seeks to present an analysis of the situation with a view to enabling the governments concerned to work out the more intelligently and effectively a solution of the problem among themselves.

Mr. MacNEIL: If I might revert to the the previous item, could the Prime Minister advise if Canada has been consulted in connection with the recognition of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia? Has any particular attitude been expressed in that regard?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The governments of the different parts of the empire, including the government of the United Kingdom, are free to take their own course in the matter. The United Kingdom government has adopted its own course. Up to the present we have not had occasion to express any view.

Item agreed to.

International joint commission, 1-2 Geo. V, chapter 28, \$75,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This item deals with the expenses of the international joint commission. It is a statutory item and does not require a specific appropriation, but it affords me an opportunity to direct the attention of the government to a matter that I regard as rather serious, especially in view of the decision of the privy council in connection with our right as a parliament in any sense to abridge or lessen the powers of the provinces. Section 2 of chapter 28 of the statutes of 1911 reads:

The laws of Canada and of the several provinces thereof are hereby amended and altered so as to permit, authorize and sanction the performance of the obligations undertaken by His Majesty in and under the said treaty; and so as to sanction, confer and impose the various rights, duties and disabilities intended by the said treaty to be conferred or imposed or to exist within Canada.

This is a direct and clear-cut statement on the part of this parliament that any laws in