

are incapable of producing revenue from the actions of any wharfinger, is it the intention to bring in an amendment to the Government Harbours and Piers Act this session?

Mr. HOWE: A matter of government policy is not usually discussed, but I may say that this department has no further legislation for the present session of parliament.

NATURAL RESOURCES

CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN DOMINION GOVERNMENT AND PROVINCES OF MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA—
CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 106, to amend the Manitoba Natural Resources Act, the Alberta Natural Resources Acts, and the Saskatchewan Natural Resources Acts.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): The amendments made in the Senate are really for the purpose of meeting what I conceive to be a valid objection as to the exercise of its powers by this parliament. Whether or not that is being done I am in doubt. The proposed amendments provide that this act shall be read and construed as one with the following acts: The Manitoba Natural Resources Act, the Alberta Natural Resources Acts, and the Saskatchewan Natural Resources Acts. The effect of that is to seek to remedy the difficulty to which attention was directed and treat the amendments now made as though it were part of the original agreement, so that they should be read together as one agreement. Whether or not that is achieved I have some doubt, but certainly it does give a semblance of authority to this parliament to deal with it by endeavouring to make it appear that the proposals now made were proposals that appeared in the original agreements. To that extent I am certain that it does greatly improve the situation; but I still have grave doubts as to whether it may not be considered an amendment of the constitution. That in itself requires the approval of the imperial parliament to give it validity, in view of the fact that we did specially reserve the water under the lands, and did not include it in the transfer of resources. But the amendment as proposed will at least have this effect: it will link the statute under consideration with the original agreement, making them read as one.

Motion agreed to.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ACT

AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PROVISION FOR SALARY, ETC.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved the second reading of Bill No. 146, respecting the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—Appointment.

Mr. CAHAN: Has the government considered, as a matter of policy, the expediency of Canada appointing high commissioners to one or more of the autonomous dominions?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The government has been considering that matter. The committee I think may expect an appointment to be made before very long to at least one or two of the other dominions.

Mr. BENNETT: Would not legislation be required?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, I think it would.

Section agreed to.

Section 3 agreed to.

On section 4—Officers and clerks.

Mr. BENNETT: It will be observed that it was provided in the former act that the high commissioner shall:

(b) take the charge, supervision and control of the immigration offices and agencies in Great Britain, under the Minister of Immigration and Colonization.

That apparently is dropped.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is dropped for the reason that there is no longer a minister of immigration and colonization.

Mr. BENNETT: But it is merged in another department.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. Under the old act the high commissioner took his instructions from different ministers. Under the new section the governor in council determines the powers and duties to be carried out by the high commissioner, and it is proposed that he shall take his instructions from the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. BENNETT: I think it would be adequately covered, except that it was specific in the one case. It will be recalled that there is a sort of immigration office attached