

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND:

It is also necessary expressly to amend that Act by eliminating His Majesty and his issue and descendants from the succession.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is all right.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: In his statement to the House of Lords Lord Halifax explained the necessity for the clause and spoke of an alteration to the Act of Settlement.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is a lapsus linguae.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: They are responsible Ministers of the Crown and have advisers around them. Without delving more deeply into the constitutional aspect, I think under the circumstances we are justified in exercising the powers contained in the preamble and in passing this Bill so far as it concerns the order of succession. Certain questions may arise, as my honourable friend from Hamilton (Hon. Mr. Lynch-Staunton) said when citing the Minister of Justice, and we know that in past centuries there have been pretenders to various thrones. If the descendants of the present King predeceased him, a son or grandson of His former Majesty King Edward VIII might claim the Throne. Be that as it may, I feel that in presenting this legislation we are doing the right thing by the Parliament of Canada; we are exercising the powers mentioned in the preamble, and respecting the rights given to the dominions.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

TRANSPORT BILL

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable members, I wish to advise the Senate that to-morrow I may initiate in this Chamber a Bill known as the Transport Bill, enlarging the powers of the Board of Railway Commissioners. This is a Bill of considerable importance, and one upon which representations from interested parties may be heard. I would inform the right honourable the leader on the other side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) that it was my intention to ask the Senate to give the Bill second reading to-morrow. Honourable members would not be bound by the principle or principles of the

Bill, but would consent to second reading with a view to sending it to the Committee on Railways, Telegraphs and Harbours. As we may adjourn to-morrow evening for a few days, the procedure I have outlined would permit interested parties who may be affected by the Bill to examine into it and to appear before the committee when we return to the Senate. I take advantage of the presence of my right honourable friend to inquire if he would agree to the Bill receiving two readings to-morrow in order that the public at large may be apprised of its contents.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am quite agreeable. What the honourable gentleman proposes is the usual practice here. We get to committee as soon as we can.

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

THE SENATE

Thursday, January 21, 1937.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. Hugessen for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. J. J. HUGHES: Honourable senators, in the observations I intend to make on the subject which has been before this House for the major part of the last few days, I shall pursue a different line of thought, in part at least, from that which has been followed by the members who have already spoken.

The Speech from the Throne with which His Excellency opened Parliament, and which we are now considering, naturally calls our attention to the abdication of His Majesty King Edward VIII and the accession of his successor to the Throne. We have been told that the assent of Parliament would be sought to the alteration in the law of succession, and that when this was done every member of the House who wished to express his views on the subject would have an opportunity to do so. Therefore little need be said now beyond stating that the handling of this regrettable affair revealed much that is com-