

of a Government Committee appointed by Sir Auckland Geddes, Minister of Reconstruction.

If this report is true will the condition referred to have any effect upon the trade relations of Canada?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The attention of the Government has not been directed thus far to the communication in the press to which the hon. gentleman refers.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

ADVANCE OF \$5,000,000 FOR TERMINAL FACILITIES.

On motion of Hon. C. C. Ballantyne (Minister of Marine) for the House to go into Committee of the Whole to consider the following proposed resolutions:

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide,—

1. That the Governor in Council may, from time to time, advance and pay the Corporation of the Vancouver Harbour Commissioners, hereinafter called the "Corporation," such sums of money, not exceeding in the whole the sum of five million dollars, as may be required to enable the Corporation to carry on the construction of works to provide such terminal facilities as are deemed necessary for the proper development and equipment of the harbour of Vancouver.

2. That during the period of construction of the works referred to in these resolutions, the interest payable on the debentures deposited with the Minister of Finance and Receiver General under the provisions of the Act to be based upon these resolutions, in respect of the construction of such works, shall be deemed to be money required to enable the Corporation to construct the said works, and to be a part of the cost of the construction thereof, and the said interest may be paid out of the said sum of five million dollars. The period of construction herein referred to shall begin on the day when the first advance is made on account of the said construction, and shall terminate on such date as the Governor in Council shall fix and determine.

3. That no construction of any works shall be begun, and no advances shall be made under the proposed legislation, until the necessary plans, specifications, and estimates in detail to govern the construction of such works have been submitted to and approved by the Governor in Council.

4. That applications for the said advances shall be made monthly by the Corporation during the period of construction of said works, with statements detailing the total expenditure on any work in the month which the requested advance is to cover, and such other statements and information as the minister may require, and no payment shall be made on any application until the application has been approved by the Governor in Council.

5. That the Corporation shall, upon any advances being made, deposit with the Minister of Finance and Receiver General, debentures of the Corporation equal in par value to the advance so made (which debentures the Corporation is authorized to issue by the proposed legislation), and each such debenture shall be for such amount as the Minister of Finance and

[Mr. Burnham.]

Receiver General shall prescribe. The debentures shall bear date of the day such advance is made, and shall be repayable within twenty-five years from the date of their issue. They shall bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, and such interest shall be made payable half yearly on the first day of July and the first day of January in each year.

6. That the principal and interest of the sums advanced to the Corporation under the authority of the Act to be based on these resolutions, shall be payable by the Corporation out of all its property and assets, and out of all its tolls, rates, dues, penalties and other sources of revenue and income, and shall rank as a charge thereon next after, and have precedence in regard to payment next after, the principal and interest of all debentures or bonds heretofore issued by the Corporation to the public and amounting to the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, said debentures or bonds having been issued under the provisions of chapter 54 of the Statutes of 1913.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (Leader of the Opposition): Will the minister please explain the resolutions.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: This legislation is to empower the Government to loan to the Harbour Commissioners for the port of Vancouver a sum of \$5,000,000. I wish to explain that while there is a Board of Harbour Commissioners at Vancouver, no moneys have as yet been voted to them by Parliament. The terminal facilities at that port are very inadequate for shipping, more particularly in view of the fact that the Dominion Government now owns and operates what will soon be a very large mercantile marine. It will be necessary to build one or two deep-water berths there to accommodate not only the Government vessels but also the ships of other companies that ply to the port of Vancouver. It must not be understood that the \$5,000,000 is to be expended immediately at this port. The Bill to be passed will merely be an enabling Act so that the money may be voted to the Harbour Commissioners and expended from time to time subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. Fees will be collected by the Harbour Commissioners of Vancouver, from wharfage dues and other sources, similarly as fees are now collected at the ports of Montreal and Quebec. The revenues so obtained will, it is considered, be sufficient to enable the Harbour Commissioners of Vancouver to pay five per cent on this loan.

Mr. McKENZIE: I would like the minister to give the House a statement, if he is in a position to do so, as to how we stand with respect to these different loans. My experience is that they merely amount to giving money away; we never get that money back and we never get the interest.