

CORONATION OATH

Mr. CAHAN:

By whom, and under what statutory or other authority, was the coronation oath, which was prescribed in 1689 by The Coronation Oath Act (1 Will. and Mary c. 6), and which had been administered at every coronation thereafter, changed in its terms and a new form of oath administered to His Majesty George VI, upon his coronation on May 12, 1937?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

The coronation oath provided for in 1689 by The Coronation Oath Act (1 Wm. and Mary c. 6) had not been administered at every coronation thereafter in the terms prescribed in the Act. While the form of coronation oath was laid down by statute and could not be altered without statutory authority, it had always been recognized that if a statute was passed altering the constitutional position in such a way as to render words of the original oath no longer applicable, that statute might be treated as impliedly authorizing and indeed requiring a corresponding alteration in the wording of the oath. This procedure was followed in the case of the act of union with Scotland and the act of union with Ireland. The position in Ireland and the enactment of the statute of Westminster altered the constitutional position of the United Kingdom in relation to the dominions, in such a way as to render the existing words of the coronation oath inapplicable. Accordingly, it was necessary that an alteration should be made, and the present form of oath was administered upon the statutory authority of The Coronation Oath Act and the intervening statutes affecting the constitutional position up to and including the statute of Westminster.

The alteration was made by the coronation commission, after consultation with and the concurrence and approval of all the governments of the British commonwealth of nations.

*PUBLIC UTTERANCES OF GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. CAHAN:

Has the constitutional rule ever been abrogated, which was expressed in 1879 by the prime minister of that day, to the effect that the governor general of Canada in his public utterances shall preserve absolute silence on matters of policy or of a public nature?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This question I believe is out of order. It would appear to be asked not so much to obtain information, as to supply it. I am not aware that a statement was made in 1879 by the Prime Minister of that day in the terms set forth in the question and I should appreciate information as to where it is to be found.

[Mr. Euler.]

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES—CIVIL AVIATION

Mr. BLANCHETTE:

1. Will the Trans-Canada air lines be completed by the end of the present year?
2. What is the government doing towards the training of youths for civil aviation?

Mr. HOWE:

1. West of Montreal to the Pacific coast—yes.
2. The government has supported the flying club movement for the past ten years, so as to make available facilities for flying instruction in all parts of the dominion.

CONSULTATION BETWEEN BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY AND DOMINION REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

1. Is there held in London a weekly conference at which the foreign secretary meets the representatives of the various dominions?
2. Does the High Commissioner for Canada attend this conference?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.

ATHENS, ONT., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. STEWART:

1. When did the last postmaster at Athens, Ontario, tender his resignation?
2. On what date was his resignation accepted?
3. Who was appointed in his place?
4. How many returned soldiers, of Athens or vicinity, applied for appointment?
5. Did the present postmaster reside and carry on business at Morton, about twelve miles from Athens, before his appointment?
6. Were there applications for this position from residents of Athens, Ontario?
7. If so, why were they all rejected?
8. Was this appointment under the control of the civil service commission?
9. When did the present postmaster first receive his personal mail at Athens?
10. On whose recommendation was the present postmaster at Athens appointed?

Mr. EULER:

1. 12th December, 1935, to take effect on 1st September, 1936.
2. Postmaster was advised on the 28th August, 1936, that the transfer of the office would be effected on the 1st September, 1936.
3. Harry Wykes, returned soldier.
4. Three, including Mr. Wykes.
5. Information on file indicates Mr. Wykes had transacted postal business at Athens since