

C 275823

PRIVATE BILLS

REFERENCE OF PETITION TO COMMITTEE ON
STANDING ORDERS

Mr. H. J. PLAXTON (Trinity) moved:

That the petition of Audrey Elizabeth Logan Williams, presented on March 24, praying for the passing of an act to dissolve the marriage of the petitioner, together with the report of the clerk of petitions thereon, be referred to the standing committee on standing orders for such recommendation as may be deemed advisable.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

*PURCHASES OF FEED AND FODDER IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROOKS:

1. According to return tabled on March 16, the dominion government purchased \$1,155,806 worth of food, fodder and hay in the United States for the relief of live stock in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; from whom were these supplies purchased, and what was the price in each case?

2. What quantity of fodder and hay was purchased in the maritime provinces for the same purpose?

Mr. GARDINER: I suggest that this question should either be changed or that I should answer it orally. The oral answer would be that the dominion government did not purchase any of the products mentioned, that no feed or fodder was purchased by the provinces of Manitoba and Alberta, and that all the hay, feed and fodder used in Saskatchewan was purchased by the government of Saskatchewan. The answer to the second question would be that, so far as I know, no feed or fodder was purchased by any government in the maritime provinces.

SUBVERSIVE, IMMORAL OR OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS
OR PHOTOGRAPHS

Mr. LACOMBE:

1. Did the Department of National Revenue receive protests against magazines of a subversive, immoral or obscene nature during the year 1938?

2. If so, were such protests oral or written?

3. If oral, how many did the department receive?

Mr. ILSLEY:

1. Yes.

2. Written.

3. Approximately 1,400 letters were received from collectors of customs and excise, other persons and organizations.

Mr. LACOMBE:

1. Did the Department of National Revenue confiscate obscene magazines, reviews, books and photographs during the year 1938?

2. If so, what quantity of each were seized?

[M. Howe.]

Mr. ILSLEY:

1. Yes.

2. Magazines, 26,639; newspapers, 3,897; pamphlets, 16,040; books, 581; photographs, 155.

Mr. LACOMBE:

1. Did the Department of National Revenue seize any publications of a subversive nature during the year 1938?

2. If so, how many of such publications were seized?

Mr. ILSLEY:

1. Yes.

2. 3,917.

RUST RESISTING WHEAT

Mr. PERLEY:

How many bushels of rust resisting wheat were exchanged with the producers for spring wheat, for seeding requirements of 1939 under order No. 15 issued by the Canadian wheat board to all grain companies under date of August 31, 1938?

Mr. EULER: 635,452 bushels to March 29th, 1939.

PENSION ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND PROVISIONS RESPECTING
PENSIONS TO WIDOWS

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of Pensions and National Health) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure amending the Pension Act to extend the provisions under which pension may be awarded to the widow of a member of the forces after his death.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICH AGREEMENT

TABLING OF COPY OF CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM
SENT BY PRIME MINISTER

On the orders of the day.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) asked me if, when I came to deal with foreign affairs, I would give the exact terms of the message to which reference was made in the press last October as having been sent by myself to Right Honourable Neville Chamberlain, congratulating him upon the Munich agreement. I desire to lay a copy of this telegram on the table, and am sending an additional copy to my hon. friend.

SUPPLY

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—FOREIGN POLICY—STATEMENT
OF PRIME MINISTER ON MOTION OF
MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at imperial conferences in London, in considering foreign policy, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs follows the practice of reviewing, in outline, the world situation, and presenting in relation thereto the problems of special significance to the nations of the British commonwealth. In the course of the survey an effort is made to anticipate those matters which are likely to be the subject of chief interest and concern. Discussion on particular topics is reserved until the international situation, as a whole, has been presented. While this involves, at the outset, a statement of some length, it has been found, in the end, the most effective means of presenting outstanding problems in their true light. By making clear their many sidedness and inter-relations, it serves to place each question in a truer perspective, and thereby to avoid much in the way of unnecessary controversy and discussion.

In making to the house, this afternoon, a statement with respect to foreign and other external affairs of immediate concern to Canada, I propose to follow the method just referred to. It is, I consider, the one best calculated to permit of a comprehensive and yet concise review of international affairs, and of the government's policies with respect thereto.

I need not remind hon. members of the importance attached in times like the present and in other countries as well as at home, to any statement respecting foreign policy which may be made in the name of any government; I might even say, the undue significance too often given to a single sentence, or phrase, or word. For this reason, I make no apology to the house for having gone to some pains to reduce to writing most of what I may have to say this afternoon. I shall, perhaps, be pardoned if I adhere fairly closely to the text throughout.

I shall be greatly obliged if I may be permitted to proceed without interruption, save, of course, in the event of the propriety or accuracy of any representation being questioned. In the course of debate either on the statement itself, or in committee on estimates of the Department of External Affairs, I shall be glad to endeavour to answer such questions

or to give such additional information with respect to any matters referred to, as hon. members may wish me to do.

I regret that what I have prepared is somewhat lengthier than I might wish it to be. If I have erred in that particular, it is because any review which would seek to set forth the government's position with respect to world conditions cannot be other than of some length, particularly where the desire is to give as full information as may be possible.

The months that have passed since parliament adjourned in July have been a troubled and unsettled period in international affairs. War is still raging on one continent, and civil war, and rumours and threats of war have, for many months, kept another continent in high tension. A world that was spending four billions in gold dollars on direct military preparations eight or nine years ago, last year spent nine and a half billions, three-quarters of this colossal sum being spent by European countries. Every country, in varying degree, some from ambition, some from fear, is devoting to cannon, bombing planes and munitions the resources sorely needed for bettering the standard of living of its people. In not one but many lands criticism is held as treason, opponents are purged, minorities are suppressed, force is openly glorified. Economic recovery is checked by fear of what the future may bring. There are, I am convinced, strong reasons for hope as well as for apprehension, but we can find no sound basis for building peace if we refuse to face all the facts of the situation as it is to-day.

The September crisis over Czechoslovakia was the outstanding incident of the year 1938, perhaps the most significant political development in Europe since the treaty of Versailles. As I have been asked to deal particularly with the crisis of September, and as it provided the background of future developments, it will be necessary to recall some of the phases of that incident. I shall do so briefly, since the main stages of that critical period are within the recollection of all hon. members of this house.

The difficulties between Czech and Sudeten German which came to a head last year were not new. They were the latest phase of a seven-hundred year rivalry between Slav and Teuton. The failure of the Austro-Hungarian empire to assure freedom and equality to the main racial groups within its borders, by federation or some other means, was the immediate cause of the great war. When the terms of peace were being drafted at Paris, a solution was sought, not in a federation which

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