

the Dominion. The difficulty to-day is that there are some ten separate appropriations in the department, and stores under each appropriation must be carried as separate stock.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: That is in the one department?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes. The only means by which stores can be moved from one appropriation to another is the process of sale, which involves extensive book-keeping. The result is that we have sixty store depots from coast to coast—as many as three depots, and in one instance four being in the same city—and in these depots are five or six separate compartments. Goods purchased must be placed in one compartment, and used in that compartment under the appropriation, and cannot quickly be transferred to any other compartment where the same goods are required.

The department's annual purchases of stores are about \$3,000,000 and our stocks to-day are \$1,500,000, which of course is an absurd figure. The Minister states he has gone into the matter in an effort to have the stocks reduced, and it has been explained to him that it is impossible to reduce them without legislation of this kind to authorize combining them for the various services.

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

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: According to the Law Clerk, a number of amendments are necessary in order to improve the form of some sections, and parts of the Bill will need to be redrafted. I therefore move that the measure be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to.

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

THE SENATE

Tuesday, April 6, 1937.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

DIVORCE BILLS

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robinson, for Hon. Mr. McMeans, Chairman of the Committee on Divorce, the following Bills were severally

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read the first, second and third times, and passed, on division:

Bill T2, an Act for the relief of Albert Henry Pergley.

Bill U2, an Act for the relief of Suzanne Rosenthal Winnikoff.

Bill V2, an Act for the relief of Kate Mary Briggs Robinson.

Bill W2, an Act for the relief of Mildred Gordon Kahn.

Bill X2, an Act for the relief of Ernest Arthur Allen.

Bill Y2, an Act for the relief of Florence Rose Wright Clark.

Bill Z2, an Act for the relief of Constance Hope Davidson.

FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT

ADMINISTRATION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

On the question proposed by Hon. Mr. MacArthur:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the administration of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act in Prince Edward Island and inquire of the Government what action, if any, it intends to take in the premises.

Hon. J. J. HUGHES: Honourable members, the honourable senator from Prince (Hon. Mr. MacArthur) is ill and unable to be present to-day. As we are approaching the end of the session and this matter is of some importance, I would ask the House to permit me to open the discussion, which could be adjourned until to-morrow, when the honourable senator is expected to be here.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Will my honourable friend be long?

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: No, I shall not be long.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would suggest that inasmuch as the honourable senator from Prince (Hon. Mr. MacArthur) is expected to be here to-morrow, my honourable friend from King's (Hon. Mr. Hughes) might postpone his remarks until his colleague is by his side.

Hon. Mr. HUGHES: Well, the discussion has to be opened some time, and I think to-day would be a convenient time.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But there is important legislation before the Senate.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: There will be some to-morrow, too, I suppose. I think, subject to correction, that the honourable member has the right to speak if he wishes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.