

Copyright Act

necessary; but it has nothing to do with the correspondence I asked for.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I must confess I thought that my right hon. friend wanted all the correspondence that dealt with the subject of ocean rates, and I have been trying to get all the correspondence together.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I made myself clear again the day before yesterday. From the first that is all I have asked for.

COPYRIGHT ACT, 1921, AMENDMENTS

Mr. W. G. RAYMOND (Brantford) moved:

That the report of the special committee appointed to consider and report upon Bill No. 2, an act to amend and make operative certain provisions of the Copyright Act, 1921, presented this day, be concurred in.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): I was not quite certain, Mr. Speaker, whether you said the report was presented this day or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was presented to the House two days ago. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Raymond) moved concurrence in the report on that occasion, but objection was taken, and notice was given.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not rise to debate the merits of the report, because I want to frankly say I do not know what the report is; but I rise to take the same exception which I took last session to policies being adopted on motions, even after one day's notice, to concur in reports of committees. The committee's report should be used as a basis on which legislation may or may not be proposed, according as the government see fit. I do not think any one is prepared to debate the merits of copyright amendments now; the subject is very complicated. It is a subject which should be introduced and placed before this House in the form of a measure, thereby giving the House all the opportunities for criticism and for review of its decision that a bill presents. If we now deal with the subject and the matter is closed just after one debate, we abandon all those safeguards which I think the House is entitled to.

Mr. RAYMOND: I beg to say that the report, which was read some two days ago when notice of this motion was given, was simply to the effect that the committee might have the authority of the House for the printing of the evidence before it and of its proceedings. That is all that is involved

[Mr. Meighen.]

in the report. I agree with the right hon. member for Grenville (Mr. Meighen) that it is necessary that important matters should receive the consideration of the House, but if he had noticed the report of the committee at the time it was presented he would have seen that what I have explained is all that is involved in it.

Mr. IRVINE: At this end of the chamber we cannot hear what the report is about. As I am very much interested in the copyright question I should like to know what the report is that is being adopted.

Mr. RAYMOND: The report was read, as I stated, some two days ago, and it simply asked the permission and authority of the House to have its proceedings and evidence printed for the benefit of the members of the House and for the benefit of the members of the committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a safeguard may I be allowed to read the report itself which is very brief. It reads as follows:

Your committee, in accordance with the resolution which it has adopted, recommends that it be granted leave to print its proceedings and evidence, when deemed advisable, for the use of the committee and for the use of the members of this House; and that rule 74 in relation thereto be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

GENEVA PROTOCOL—PAPERS TABLED AND STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I beg leave to lay on the table a copy of the protocol for the pacific settlement of international disputes drawn up in Geneva during the fifth assembly of the League of Nations, 1924, of the report to the League of the committees which dealt with this matter and the covenant of the League as amended. I may say that the government received an intimation this morning that the right hon. the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain made a statement to-day to the League of Nations Council with respect to the position taken by the British government, and I understand also the position taken by the governments of the self-governing dominions with respect to the protocol. My reason for laying these documents on the table is that I intend to move that copies be printed so that they will be available for members of the House when the discussion comes up on this matter.