

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 25, 1936.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PRIVATE BILLS

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. F. B. BLACK presented the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill A, an Act to incorporate the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and moved concurrence therein.

He said: Honourable senators, the committee has, in obedience to the order of reference, examined this Bill and now submits it with four amendments. I may say that these amendments are brief, with the exception of the last one, which is as follows:

Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection one of section four, or subsection one of section five, of the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, 1932, the said Act shall apply to the Company except as otherwise provided in this Act.

For the information of honourable members I might add that this company, which is now seeking Dominion incorporation, is at present doing business in the province of Ontario.

The motion was agreed to.

FIRST READING

Bill T, an Act respecting the Pension Fund Society of the Bank of Montreal.—Hon. Mr. Lemieux.

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT BILL

MOTION FOR SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 13, an Act respecting a certain Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States of America.

He said: Honourable members of the Senate, I must admit that I did not think I should live long enough to have the privilege of introducing such a Bill in this Chamber. I had taken an active part in the elections of 1911 in the endeavour to obtain the country's endorsement of the trade convention of that year. I confess that to this day I have retained a feeling of grievance towards my then opponents, who carried the day and defeated reciprocity, for having rejected the very great advantage that would have accrued to Canada from the expansion of its trade with the United States under such an agreement.

I was very close to public men who had lived under the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854-66, and I had occasion to notice that those who had entered public life prior to Confederation, and had enjoyed the advantages of that treaty, were most ardent in their desire to have it resurrected. That desire was general throughout the country. We had no Western Provinces at the time, and trade with the South was concentrated in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. When I left college in 1879 I failed to notice any general dissent on the question of reciprocity. The Reciprocity Treaty of 1854-66 had brought very great prosperity to Canada. It may be urged that that prosperity was due in part to the fact that the War of Secession had to a considerable extent increased the need of the United States for our products.

That treaty was denounced by the United States in 1866. The reason given was that we had altered our tariff in 1859 and imposed duties on manufactured goods, and so changed the conditions. As a matter of fact, throughout perhaps the whole duration of the treaty, from 1854 to 1866, we sold to the United States nineteen-twentieths of our goods and bought from them one-twentieth of theirs. This was deemed to have been the ground for the denunciation of the treaty; and I think it has been affirmed by historians.

But another reason was advanced for the denunciation: the attitude of the Anglo-Saxon world towards the Northern cause. Was this the result of a lingering rancour in the breasts of Anglo-Saxons at the violent separation of 1775-82? At all events there was an expressed dissatisfaction in the United States at our apparent indifference to the success of the North, although thousands of Canadians had volunteered for service in the Northern army. I have in my time met dozens of men who had been in the Federal forces throughout the war. Hundreds of Canadians were on the pension list of the United States. I recall one who served as Clerk of the Senate for a number of years, Major Samuel E. St. Onge Chapleau, who had enlisted in the Northern army under the name of his mother, St. Onge, and had received promotion and ultimately become a major in the Northern forces. I recall an old friend of mine, a judge of the Superior Court of Montreal, Mr. Justice St. Pierre, who also went through the Civil War. So there had been considerable enlistment of Canadian volunteers in the Federal army. Yet undoubtedly the United States felt that the Anglo-Saxon world had not shown any active sympathy for the Northern cause.