

when I occupied the position of temporary leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition.

I also appreciate very highly the kind words which fell from the lips of the hon. member (Mr. Gardiner) who leads the Progressive group in this chamber. I do not know that I can do more than thank my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, the leader of the Progressive group and those members of the House who have joined so heartily in the language of approval of the leader of the house.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this House under rule 10, said committee to be composed of Messieurs Casgrain, Forke, Hanson, King (Kootenay) and Stewart (Leeds).

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) presented the following message from his Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council appointing the Honourable W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable J. H. King, Minister of Health and Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, the Honourable J. C. Elliott, Minister of Public Works, and the Honourable Fernand Rinfret, Secretary of State, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the eleventh chapter of the revised statutes of Canada, 1906, intitled "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the Sergeant-at-Arms, with my approval, has appointed Edouard Taschereau, Esquire, to be his deputy during the present session of parliament.

ADJOURNMENT

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. MACKENZIE KING moved the adjournment of the house.

Mr. BENNETT: Before the question is put, Mr. Speaker, may I inquire from the right hon. the Prime Minister if the report of the Dominion-Interprovincial conference might be made available to us before Monday?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not know whether my hon. friend has learned of the understanding that was reached at the time the conference took place. The understanding with the provinces was that a record would not be kept of the proceedings. It was felt that there might be more in the way of frank discussion if the proceedings were not reported from day to day, and if members could feel free to express their views without everything that was said being taken down in a way that might tend to bind them literally to the point of view as expressed at the moment. There is, as a consequence, no report of the conference as such. For the purposes of the government, a record was kept of the meetings and of those who attended, but that report is not of a nature which I think would serve any useful purpose in parliament.

I should say to my hon. friend that the proceedings of the conference from day to day were given to the press in the form of statements which were prepared or authorized by representatives of both the federal and provincial governments. These statements I think hon. members have already seen.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 4.20 p.m.

Friday, January 27, 1928

The house met at three o'clock.

CUSTOMS INQUIRY COMMISSION

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I beg to lay on the table of the house copy of the final report of the Royal Commission on Customs and Excise. I move, seconded by Mr. Dunning, that 1,200 copies in English and 400 copies in French of the said report, be printed forthwith and that standing order No. 64 be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. S. F. TOLMIE (Victoria): Have negotiations taken place, or are negotiations now pending, for the acquisition of the Pacific Great Eastern railway by the government of Canada or by the Canadian National Railways?