

Business of the House

12, 1949, and that I had accepted his invitation. The United States ambassador called on me yesterday morning to extend the invitation. I told Mr. Steinhardt I would naturally be pleased to accept it.

The President was kind enough to indicate that he would like to renew our acquaintance and to discuss the matters which are of common interest to our two countries as neighbours, and also the world situation as it affects our two countries.

Everyone knows that the friendly personal relations between the late President Roosevelt and our Prime Minister were of inestimable advantage to this continent and to the world. President Truman has expressed the desire, which I fully share, to maintain these friendly personal relations between the leaders of the governments of our two countries. Hon. members will recall that President Truman visited Ottawa in June, 1947, at the invitation of my predecessor, and that his visit was both pleasant and beneficial.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I table herewith, in English and in French, the terms of union of Newfoundland with Canada, and answers to the questions raised by the Newfoundland delegation when it was here discussing these terms of union.

Also the orders in council passed since prorogation of the last session of parliament with respect to the transfer of duties; orders in council of August 17, 1948, November 5, 1948, two of November 15, 1948, and December 8, 1948.

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): I desire to lay on the table the annual report of the Department of National Revenue for the year ended March 31, 1948, in English and in French.

I also wish to report that, with reference to the export of petroleum and pulpwood, no orders or regulations have been issued under the export of petroleum and pulpwood regulations established under chapter 63 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, since the last return made to parliament.

With reference to the Canada-United Kingdom income tax agreement, no orders or regulations have been issued under chapter 38 of the Statutes of 1946, being the Canada-United Kingdom income tax agreement.

With reference to the Canada-United Kingdom succession duty agreement, no regulations or orders have been issued under chapter 39 of the statutes of 1946, being the Canada-United Kingdom succession duty agreement section.

With reference to the Canada-United States tax convention, no orders or regulations have been issued under the convention relating to succession duties, enacted as chapter 31 of the statutes of 1934, since these were tabled in the house on March 20, 1946.

(For complete list of reports and papers tabled, see *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 2, January 27, 1949.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): If I may have the unanimous consent of the house to do so, I should like at this time to move:

That William Henry Golding, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Huron-Perth, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. St. Laurent: I thought the manner in which the hon. member performed his duties as deputy chairman of committees of the whole in previous sessions would assure me of the unanimous consent for which I have asked. I therefore move, seconded by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), the foregoing motion.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PRECEDENCE OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Yesterday the discussion with regard to the procedure for today was concluded as follows, as reported in *Hansard* at page 12:

Mr. St. Laurent: In order to avoid debate I am quite prepared to withdraw the motion and to trust that it will be the desire of hon. members tomorrow that we proceed with the debate on the address.

The leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) said:

So that there may be no misunderstanding, I was dealing with a motion in a certain form. The Prime Minister has indicated his willingness to withdraw that motion. We come now to another point. There can be no objection to proceeding with the debate in the usual way in so far as the mover and seconder are concerned, but I am unaware of any precedent for the leader of the opposition and the Prime Minister following immediately afterwards under such circumstances as we have here. I do not think that should be suggested. The speech from the throne has only been presented today. The debate is on that speech, and it is customary to afford the leader of the opposition an opportunity to examine it so that his remarks will deal with it. I want to make that observation now that the Prime Minister has withdrawn the motion. I make the observation as to my views of the procedure on the debate merely for the purpose of avoiding any misunderstanding tomorrow.

On the assumption that the foregoing represented the feeling of the house generally, I