

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. K. BLAIR (North Wellington): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), as to the truth of a report appearing in yesterday's Toronto Mail and Empire. This report states that Hon. Howard Ferguson has been elected chairman of the imperial economic conference, which conference is to carry on the work of economic intelligence hitherto conducted by the empire marketing board, and it is suggested that the empire marketing board may be abolished. I think perhaps that board is under the control of the government of Great Britain, but I should like to get some information from the Prime Minister in regard to this report.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): No question has been put, but presumably the hon. member has served the useful purpose of hearing himself make the statement he has made.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BENNETT: There is nothing out of order in that; it is a perfectly correct statement. The hon. member did not ask a question, but if he will take the trouble to look at the report which has been laid on the table he will realize that, as a result of the conference which was held in London, England, last year, at which Doctor Skelton represented the dominion and of which conference he was chairman, the whole matter connected with the empire marketing board has been dealt with. The other statements read by the hon. gentleman have no foundation in fact, so far as I know.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the question asked by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. Blair) I understood him to refer to the imperial economic conference. If I am right in that, I think what he really meant to refer to was the imperial economic committee, and I should like to ask the Prime Minister if it is not a fact that the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson has become chairman of the imperial economic committee, which sits for the purpose of furthering economic cooperation within the empire?

Mr. BENNETT: It will be within the memory of the right hon. gentleman, who has read the report, that provision was made for the maintenance of a committee to deal with matters which had in part been dealt with by the empire marketing board. I believe the various high commissioners have

[Mr. Gordon.]

been or will be chairmen of the committee, from time to time. Whether or not it is Mr. Ferguson's turn at the present time, I cannot say. I shall look into the matter, however, and make a statement. I think he was chairman, but whether or not he is at the present time, I cannot say. I shall ascertain the fact, and advise the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. LAPOINTE: God save Canada.

PRICE SPREADS AND MASS BUYING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. MICHAUD (Restigouche-Madawaska): I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) if he has received a resolution passed by the board of trade of Campbellton, New Brunswick, dated May 25 of this year, urging that the Stevens committee investigate alleged unfair prices being paid for pulpwood in the province of New Brunswick. If the resolution has been received I should like to know whether it is the intention of the minister to have the matter investigated by the price spreads committee.

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Naturally, I have received hundreds of communications of a character similar to that indicated. I would point out to the hon. member that as he has presented it the matter is not one which would properly come under the order of reference. However, all communications of that character are answered as promptly as time permits. From the meagre information the hon. member has supplied I could not tell him whether or not the committee would decide to deal with the matter indicated, or whether such investigation would come under the order of reference. From what he has said I am under the impression it would not.

DOMINION COMPANIES ACT

The house resumed from Monday, May 28, consideration in committee of Bill No. 64, respecting dominion companies—Mr. Cahan—Mr. Sullivan in the chair.

On section 41—When and how calls may be made.

Mr. CAHAN: We are now on section 41.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I should like to ascertain whether or not as we proceed along with the sections, the Secretary of State will tell the house in detail what provisions, if any, have been specially embodied in this bill to prevent the watering of stock and the circulation of