

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, this is not a debatable motion, but the observations of the right hon. the Prime Minister necessitate a clear understanding, as this is a matter which may frequently recur. As I understand the practice in England, interdepartmental correspondence or correspondence between an ambassador and his minister, containing instructions regarding the form of a despatch, is regarded as private and confidential and is not brought before parliament, but the despatch framed upon the instructions is always considered to be properly laid before parliament. Interdepartmental correspondence is privileged to some extent.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Of course, the element of time enters into the question and may determine as to whether or not the papers shall be tabled.

Mr. MANION: The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross) has had tabled a return of which I was unaware, and I do not ask that correspondence which has been already tabled be brought down. What I want is the correspondence which has not been brought down under the limits which we all understand.

Mr. BENNETT: As I understand it, the reference to interdepartmental correspondence refers to only foreign affairs; interdepartmental correspondence between other government departments has always been available to parliament.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not necessarily all interdepartmental correspondence.

Motion agreed to.

NADAN VS. THE KING—ABOLITION OF NOVA SCOTIA UPPER HOUSE

Mr. WOODSWORTH moved:

For a copy of all correspondence between, (1) The British and Canadian governments or their representatives in any way referring to the intervention of the Attorney-General of Great Britain in the case of Nadan versus the King, before the judicial committee of the Privy Council; and,

(2) All correspondence between the Dominion government or its representatives and the lieutenant-governor or government of Nova Scotia or their representatives with reference to the Nova Scotia Bill or Act to abolish the upper house in the province.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is no objection to this motion provided there is any correspondence to be brought down, and that the consent of any other government involved is first obtained.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

ENTRY OF DOUKHOBORS

Mr. ESLING moved:

For a copy of report on which was based order in council No. 418T, 17th March, 1926, permitting the further entry of Doukhobors to Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Provided there is any such report.

Motion agreed to.

GRAIN AND GRAIN TRADE

CANADIAN EXPORT STANDARD OF WHEAT SHIPPED THROUGH UNITED STATES PORTS

Mr. J. G. ROSS (Moose Jaw) moved:

Whereas after thorough investigation by this house it was decided to improve the export standard of Canadian wheat and to recommend to the Board of Grain Commissioners that a rigid inspection be enforced at Fort William and Port Arthur; that the board maintain strict supervision at the transfer elevators and at the seaports in Canada in order to safeguard the certificate final for Canadian wheat;

And whereas large quantities of Canadian wheat are annually shipped through the United States to their seaports and through their seaports to the markets of the world;

And whereas in the United States the board cannot supervise the transfer of or the handling of Canadian grain through its different movements to the seaport;

Therefore be it resolved—That, in the opinion of this house, it is desirable that the exporter of Canadian wheat from other than Canadian seaports deposit with the Board of Grain Commissioners ten cents per bushel, either in cash or by filing a bond, which amount shall be rebated when the wheat so exported has been inspected and found when loading at the American seaport to be the Canadian export standard of the grade as designated on the certificate final.

He said: Mr. Speaker, when yesterday the speech from the throne was adopted so hurriedly without any amendment from the opposition, none of us who had resolutions upon the order paper expected to be called upon so soon to discuss those questions. I have, however, been waiting to take the first opportunity to bring this question before the House of Commons and the people of Canada. Last year we investigated very thoroughly the Grain Act before the agriculture committee of the House of Commons and from that investigation came certain amendments to the Grain Act which have had an important bearing on the grain situation in the Dominion. We first of all intimated to the Board of Grain Commissioners that we wanted a change made—and we put that change in the act last year—to raise the export standard of Canadian wheat. We asked the Board of Grain Commissioners to have a closer supervision of the inspection of grain at Fort Wil-