

Hon. CHARLES E. TANNER: I want to add just a word or two with respect to what has been said by my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand). The board has power under section 4 to—

employ such technical or other officers, clerks and employees as may be necessary for the conduct of its business.

It must not be forgotten that we have a Department of Trade and Commerce, one of whose particular functions is to seek markets. I should take it for granted that in this respect the board would have the very hearty co-operation of that department.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Minister of Trade and Commerce gave that assurance in the other House.

The motion was agreed to.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

NEWPORT, P.E.I., WHARF

INQUIRY DROPPED

On the notice by Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Cardigan):

That he will inquire of the Government as follows:

1. What was the total cost of repairs to the wharf at Newport, Prince Edward Island, during the years 1936, 1937 and 1938?

2. Give names of all parties who supplied material for this work, and amount paid to each.

3. Give names of all those employed at said work, and amount paid to each.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (Cardigan): I would ask to have this inquiry dropped.

The inquiry was dropped.

PROROGATION—BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

DISCUSSION OF CENTRAL MORTGAGE BANK BILL

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable senators, we have cleared our Order Paper, and I understand that the only two Bills to come to us from the other House before His Excellency arrives to give the Royal Assent are the Central Mortgage Bank Bill and the Supply Bill. The Central Mortgage Bank Bill is now being discussed in the other House, where it has reached the third reading stage; so we may have it within an hour. I would suggest that when it reaches us and receives the first reading we take up the second read-

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

ing, if that meets with the approval of the Senate, and then decide whether to refer it to Committee of the Whole or the Committee on Banking and Commerce. In the meantime we might adjourn during pleasure and think the matter over.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, in view of the great probability of both Houses seeking early prorogation, it occurs to me that time might be saved if, even before it reaches us, I were to take this occasion to advance a little our consideration of the Central Mortgage Bank Bill.

I have spent the entire day studying this Bill. Since its introduction in the House of Commons it has been rewritten, the rewriting consisting largely in alteration and much more careful wording of section 16.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend has a copy of that before him?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, I have it all here.

Assuming that we are to prorogue to-morrow, I feel worried, to use a common expression, about this Bill coming to us at this time. I am not complaining of the consideration given to it in the other House. There it has received very lengthy consideration in committee and manifestly has been scrutinized pretty carefully from the point of view of draftsmanship and general structure; but it is peculiarly a measure to which a committee of our House should give much time and very close attention. I should feel better throughout the summer if I knew we had tried to do a real job in connection with this Bill.

In reading and studying the Bill one cannot but be impressed by the consideration that if there ever was a measure respecting which legal supervision should be careful, this is one. The work should be thoroughly and well done. I am not going to take occasion to discuss the principle or the general plan of this legislation, but I would say that unless the constitutional structure is carefully safeguarded, and the framing and phrasing of every clause very carefully executed, there will be innumerable pitfalls for those administering the measure.

This Bill, as I have said, comes peculiarly within the functions of the Senate, and even though some honourable members may deplore any proposal which might prolong our deliberations, I suggest to the leader of the Government that we should be true to our plain duty if we were to deal with this measure hurriedly and carelessly in the dying hours of the session. So important a Bill should not come to us at this time. Often we have