

It is pointed out that the labour situation in Canada is one of great difficulty, and the difficulty is not decreasing from day to day; it is rather the other way. The Minister of Labour made a very strong plea that judges should be permitted to act as umpires upon labour commissions, saying that the labour unions would not have anybody else. In that connection I may say that it is a pretty serious thing for some of the courts in Canada to have their arrangements disturbed by sudden calls of that kind. For instance, in my own province, Nova Scotia, they have their spring and fall circuits, with a rota of judges. One judge goes on the south shore circuit, and the other judges take the circuits assigned to them. To have one of those judges called on suddenly to act as umpire on one of these commissions disturbs the arrangements of all the circuits. To guard against that, and to meet the views of the Minister of Labour and give him his judge, the Bill has a new clause which provides that when a judge is required as an umpire, application shall be made to the Chief Justice of the province, or to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, as the case may be. That enables the Chief Justice to pick out the man who can best be spared, and to make arrangements to continue the judicial work of the province and avoid interference from the outside by people who do not really know what the daily work of the court is.

I do not think, honourable gentlemen, that I need say anything more about the Bill at this stage. There is really no new principle in it, but I think it is better than the Bill of last year. Our law clerk, Mr. Creighton, has given me very great assistance in getting over the difficulty in regard to the lack of jurisdiction which it was claimed existed at the time section 33 of the Judges Act was passed.

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS BILL.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE AND REPORTED.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the House went into Committee on Bill F, an Act to amend the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Hon. Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

On section 1—regulations by Governor in Council:

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: As I stated the other day, the object of the

amendment is to permit the Dominion Government to carry out the provisions of the convention entered into between the United States and Canada, particularly those into which some of the provinces, chiefly the Maritime Provinces, are unwilling to enter. They are unwilling to assume the responsibility of carrying on such regulations as will be necessary to enforce the Act. Therefore the Bill gives us the authority to carry out those regulations.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is that objection really a matter of money?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: There is no other objection?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No. They are quite willing that the duty should be imposed upon this Government.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

PRIVATE BILLS.

SECOND READINGS.

Bill I 2, an Act respecting The Fire Insurance Company of Canada and to authorize the use of a French equivalent of its name.—Hon. Mr. Watson.

Bill 14, an Act respecting The Lachine, Jacques Cartier and Maisonneuve Railway Company.—Hon. Mr. Casgrain.

Bill 20, an Act to incorporate Canadian Merchant Service Guild.—Hon. Mr. Girroir.

Bill 36, an Act to incorporate Grain Insurance and Guarantee Company.—Hon. Mr. McMeans.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 2.30 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Friday, May 2, 1919.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

DIVORCE BILLS.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill J2, an Act for the relief of Martha Campbell.—Hon. Mr. Ratz.

Bill K2, an Act for the relief of Rosa Hirst.—Hon. Mr. Pringle.