

THE JUDICIARY

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. McMEANS rose in accordance with the following notice of motion:

That a Special Committee composed of the honourable senators Bureau, Casgrain, Gillis, Griesbach, Hardy, Logan, McGuire, McMeans, Planta, Robinson and Tanner be appointed to examine into the system of appointing judges as at present existing, and report upon the necessity of taking some steps by which the number of judges may be reduced, and the system of appointments equalized.

He said: I would ask that with the indulgence of the House the following words be added to my motion:

That the said Committee be authorized to send for persons, papers and records.

Also that the names of Senators Barnard and Laird be added to the names of members of the Committee.

The proposal to appoint a committee to deal with this matter received the unanimous approval of the House last session. When the Committee met it was found necessary to obtain a great deal of information from the different provinces in regard to the number of judges and the work they had to perform. During the intervening time the Deputy Minister of Justice has been endeavouring to get the information for us. Some of it—not all, I understand, but a great deal—has come to hand. We hope that if this special committee is appointed we shall be able to present a statement to the House before the end of the session.

I do not think there is anything further to be said, and I would move the motion with those amendments for which I have asked the indulgence of the House.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

THE BEAUHARNOIS PROJECT

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved:

That a Special Committee of nine senators to be hereafter named, be appointed for the purpose of taking into consideration the report of a Special Committee of the House of Commons, of the last session thereof, to investigate the Beauharnois Power Project, in so far as said report relates to any honourable members of the Senate, said Special Committee to hear such further evidence on oath bearing on the subject-matter of such report in relation to any such honourable members of the Senate as it may deem desirable and in accordance with constitutional practice, and that the said Committee be authorized to send for persons, papers and records.

He said: I beg to put this motion before the Senate. There is nothing that I desire

to say at the present time further than to confirm my statement as to my personal attitude, and the attitude which I believe should and does exist on the part of every honourable member of this House.

The motion was agreed to.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, I beg to move, seconded by the honourable senator from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson):

That the fourth report of the Special Committee of the House of Commons appointed to investigate the Beauharnois Power Project, laid on the Table of the Senate on the 1st of August, 1931, be referred to the Special Committee of the Senate appointed for the purpose of taking into consideration the said report in so far as it relates to any honourable members of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am under the impression that the evidence did not accompany the report.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Shall we leave it to the Committee to move for the tabling of that evidence?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The honourable senator is right. I had some question in my own mind as to whether the Committee would be in a position to obtain the evidence without the interposition of this House, but I had come to the conclusion that the point might well be left to the Committee. If they choose to ask that we intervene and obtain the evidence, we can quickly do so. However, I have no doubt that, should the honourable senator (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) care to confer with me on the subject, if a better method could be found, we could agree, and it would be followed.

The motion was agreed to.

THE IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

NEWSPAPER STATEMENT

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: May I draw the attention of the Senate to something that appeared this morning in that well-known paper, the Montreal Gazette? You will see there in flamboyant type:

The parley will be well attended.

That means the Imperial Conference.

All parts of Empire to have delegates at Ottawa. Colonies present for first time—two billion people represented.

They are not forgetting anybody. In the body of the article this number is reduced to