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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Speaker: The Honourable JAMES ALLISON GLEN

WEDNESDAY, March 25, 1942.

The house met at three o'clock.

TAXATION

AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA RESPECTING VACATION OF TAX FIELDS

On the order for motions:

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I desire to lay on the table copy of the agreement between the dominion government and the government of British Columbia relating to vacation of tax fields.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Are printed copies available, or are they not to be distributed?

Mr. ILSLEY: No, it was not intended that copies be distributed.

PRIVATE BILLS

PETITION OF SAGUENAY TRANSMISSION COMPANY, SAGUENAY ELECTRIC COMPANY, AND ALUMINUM POWER COMPANY

Mr. J. E. A. DUBUC (Chicoutimi) moved:

That the petition of the Saguenay Transmission Company, Limited, Saguenay Electric Company, and Aluminum Power Company, Limited, presented on the 24th instant; praying for the passing of an act to approve of the site and plans of their electrical transmission lines crossing certain navigable rivers, together with the report of the Clerk of Petitions thereon, be referred to the standing committee on standing orders to consider the suspension of standing orders 92 and 93 (3) (a) and (c) in relation thereto.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): I cannot understand why special legislation is required for this application. We have a Navigable Waters Protection Act. It may be that a situation has arisen which is not covered by the act, but we ought to have some explanation by the mover as to why this legislation is required.

Mr. SPEAKER: This motion is presented only in order to cover delays which have taken place in connection with the petition. It is purely a formal matter.

Motion agreed to.

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ALBERTA NATURAL RESOURCES
AMENDMENT OF TRANSFER AGREEMENT RESPECTING ROYALTIES ON OIL PRODUCTION

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 18, to amend the Alberta Natural Resources Acts.

He said: In 1929, by agreement between the federal government and the province of Alberta, the natural resources in that province were transferred to the Alberta government. At that time there were certain licences outstanding for oil rights and timber rights. These licences had been issued by the federal government, and of course the Alberta government accepted the responsibilities which attached to the licences. Under the terms of the transfer agreement it was held that their conditions could not be varied. In 1938 it was necessary to amend the transfer agreement to enable the Alberta government to put into effect certain conservation measures in respect of the oil development in the Turner valley. The present amendment to the transfer agreement also relates to oil produced in Alberta. The Alberta government have been desirous for some time to secure the power to vary the royalties which may be charged. Certain wells were capable of paying higher royalties than other wells, but the government was limited to similar treatment for all wells covered by dominion licence. The matter has been the subject of discussion between the provincial authorities and the majority of those interested in the oil industry, and the amendment to the transfer agreement which is here proposed is to give effect to certain understandings which have been reached between the provincial government and these oil interests.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would the minister say that the matter referred to has been the subject of correspondence which could be laid on the table for the information of members of parliament?

Mr. CRERAR: I should be glad to bring down any correspondence which relates to the matter, but my recollection at the moment is