

Friday, July 1, 1938

I wish to say a word about prorogation itself. As hon. members are aware, His Excellency the Governor General has arranged to pay a visit to England this summer. About three months ago, in conversation with His Excellency, I suggested, that, having regard to the probable length of the session, it might be well not to fix a time for sailing before the first week of July and His Excellency so arranged. For some weeks past his sailing has been fixed for July 1st which is to-morrow. He is here this evening. As hon. members are aware His Excellency has been in residence at the Citadel in Quebec city for the past few weeks. He left Quebec this morning in anticipation of prorogation of parliament this evening. He is quite prepared to prorogue parliament at three or four in the morning. Moreover, His Excellency is quite prepared to postpone his sailing another week should his not being present to prorogue parliament occasion any disappointment. I feel that I will have the support of the house if I advise His Excellency not to alter, at this late time, his plans for sailing but to leave from Quebec to-morrow on his journey across the sea. I intend to advise him accordingly and shall arrange for prorogation by the deputy of the governor general. That is all I wish to say in that respect. If it is the wish of the house that we do not sit later to-night, the committee might rise now and report progress and ask leave to sit again, and after that is done I shall have a motion to propose, that for its next sitting the house meet at half-past ten o'clock in the morning.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Ten o'clock.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carry on.

Mr. BENNETT: That can be done only with unanimous consent. This is another day and I object to continuing after midnight. I shall be glad to meet the wishes of the Prime Minister and agree to the house meeting at 10.30 o'clock.

Progress reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MACKENZIE KING moved:

That when this house adjourns to-day it stand adjourned until 10.30 o'clock a.m. the first day of July, 1938.

Mr. HEAPS: Quite a number of members would prefer ten o'clock instead of 10.30.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 12.20 a.m., (Friday).

The house met at ten-thirty o'clock.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY

##### PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following message:

Ottawa, 1st July, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. L. A. D. Cannon, acting as deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber on the first of July, at one o'clock, for the purpose of proroguing the present session of parliament.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. C. Pereira,  
Assistant Secretary to the  
Governor General.

#### PENITENTIARIES

##### STATEMENT AS TO FAILURE OF THE PENITENTIARY ACT, 1938, TO BE PLACED ON THE STATUTES OF THE PRESENT SESSION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Before the orders of the day are called I wish to make a statement concerning the bill to amend the Penitentiaries Act which was adopted by this house unanimously but will now fail to be placed on the statutes of this session. The government is disappointed and I, personally, am sorry, indeed very sorry. When I stated in this house on my responsibility as Minister of Justice that I needed the proposed change for the proper administration of penitentiaries, the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) declared that he waived all his objections to the bill because of that statement.

What I regret more particularly is that this legislation involving a social question of momentous importance, has been rejected in another place on a straight party vote, and, if I read the reports aright, because of a question of persons.

All I may add is that this postponement of a needed reform, apart from being detrimental to public interest, and increasing to a dangerous degree the difficulties of my task, will not serve any useful purpose, not even that which seems to be at the basis of the adverse vote.

I repeat that I am very sorry and I feel that the seriousness of the situation they have created is not realized by those who have brought it about.