

On the title.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, I think the speed with which you moved through these clauses is a credit to the chairman of the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, and I just want to speak both for myself and the hon. member for Fort William, who unfortunately cannot be here, and express again our approval of the bill and to compliment the minister on working on it. All I can say to him now is that we shall take the pressure off him and begin to press the Minister of Public Works for the great manifestations which are going to come from this bill in the form of a lakehead terminal and warehouse set up.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

LAKE OF THE WOODS CONTROL BOARD

AMENDMENT ALTERING CONSTITUTION OF MEMBERSHIP—CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENT

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources) moved the second reading of and concurrence in an amendment made by the Senate to Bill No. C-25, to amend the Lake of the Woods Control Board Act, 1921.

Mr. Pickersgill: Will the minister tell us what the amendment is all about?

Mr. Hamilton (Ou'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, the other place feels that their phrasing is better, and I agree.

Motion agreed to, amendment read the second time and concurred in.

INDIAN ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING NAMES ON INDIAN REGISTER

Hon. George H. Hees (for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved the second reading of Bill C-24, to amend the Indian Act.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, this bill is in precisely the same form as the bill which was passed by both houses of parliament at the last session and which failed to become law only because the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) was in a hurry to dissolve parliament and did not arrange for royal assent beforehand. I see no useful purpose to be served by repeating the debate that took place on January 30, last, and which will be found in *Hansard* of that day.

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Penitentiary Act

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third and passed.

PENITENTIARY ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING RETIRING AGE OF SENIOR OFFICERS

Hon. George H. Hees (for the Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill C-21, to amend the Penitentiary Act.

Mr. Gabriel Roberge (Megantic): Mr. Speaker, this bill is designed to conform with the Public Service Superannuation Act. If I am correct, this act provides that any civil servant who contributes to the pension fund—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): I am not too sure that the hon. member for Megantic has the right bill. This is a bill to amend the Penitentiary Act.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am sure the hon. member is talking about the right bill. His remarks are completely in order.

Mr. Roberge: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if you read the explanatory note of this bill we will see that the purpose of the bill is to remove subsection 2 from the statute and by doing so the tenure of office of the commissioner and of the deputy commissioner can be extended if at any time this is considered to be advisable. Provision for retirement age and for extension may be made by regulation under the Public Service Superannuation Act.

I see that under section 12 of that act, which is chapter 50 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, a contributor to the fund has to be removed from office at the age of 65 but that the chief of the department, in this instance the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton) as far as the commissioner is concerned, or the commissioner as far as the deputy commissioners are concerned, can take action to extend the tenure of office beyond 65 years one year at a time for a period not exceeding five years.

I am sure that we on this side of the house have no doubt as to the integrity and capacity of the gentlemen who now occupy these posts but perhaps the Minister of Justice would like to tell us their age and why he wishes to continue them in office. From the bill itself we cannot see why this is being done. We might suppose that it has something to do with item 17 on the order paper. It may be that the gentlemen who now occupy the posts of commissioner and deputy commissioners will be appointed to the parole board to be created by that