

Mr. BENNETT: We have before us a real situation in connection with the breaking up of the Department of the Interior, if one might so call it, and one has to exercise considerable care, I suggest, in order to see that the duties which are being discharged with respect to the Northwest Territories are not placed in the hands of new officials, for the purpose of creating new offices or continuing old ones. I am quite content to have the minister deal with it as he desires, but there is no ministerial responsibility, as it now stands with the repeal of that section.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I should think the amendment, if one is required, should be to the Northwest Territories Act, because the Eskimos will be under the provisions of that act.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

MANITOBA BOUNDARY

EXTENSION IN NORTHWEST ANGLE INLET OF LAKE OF THE WOODS

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) moved the second reading of Bill No. 42, to provide for the extension of the boundary of the province of Manitoba in the northwest angle inlet of Lake of the Woods.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2—boundaries extended.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Has the imperial government any interest in this block of land as ordnance land or otherwise, and will it be necessary for the imperial government to ratify this agreement?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I would not think so. This two and a half acres is a plot of land covered by the indenture of the lake of the Woods where it crosses and recrosses the boundary between Manitoba and Ontario.

Mr. BENNETT: This land belonged formerly to the United States.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): It was supposed to, yes.

Mr. BENNETT: The surveyors finally indicated that it belonged to Canada.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Quite right.

Mr. BENNETT: And as between Manitoba and Ontario it is to go to Manitoba?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Will the statute require ratification?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I do not think so because it came to Canada by a treaty ratified by His Majesty the King.

Mr. BENNETT: The surveyors simply determined where the line should be.

Section agreed to.

Schedules A and B agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—UNEMPLOYMENT

AMENDMENT OF MR. HEAPS TO MOTION FOR COMMITTEE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, before Your Honour leaves the chair and the house resolves itself into committee of supply, I would like to discuss a question which I consider to be of the utmost importance, and one which should be brought to the attention of parliament. Since the house has been in session, many days have been spent in the discussion of question of importance. We have discussed questions pertaining to butter, to eggs, and to cheese, and while I would not for a moment try to belittle the importance of those matters, I do not think they can compare in importance to the subject I wish to bring to the attention of the house, namely, the unemployment and under-employment which exists at the present time in the Dominion of Canada. Important as this matter is, not a day has been devoted to the discussion of it since parliament met on February 20.

It may be said, and no doubt will be said during the course of this discussion, that this is not a federal question, that it belongs to the provinces and does not concern this House of Commons. But parliament cannot evade its responsibility to the people. If time can be spent in discussing the questions to which I have just referred, then I think we can spend a little time in discussing this important matter. We owe a duty to the men and women who happen to find themselves out of work. It may be said that we have no legal responsibility towards these people. I cannot admit that. I contend that if there is no legal responsibility there is not an hon. member of this house who will say that we have not a moral responsibility in the matter. It will possibly be claimed that the British North