

a plan to take them further out of the slough of despond and give them greater opportunities for expansion, Mr. Lloyd George should see fit to refer to tariffs in the terms in which he did. I shall just read the extract as reported in the Ottawa Citizen of January 18, 1935, in these words:

Since Britain now had tariffs he would use them ruthlessly as a means of inducing removal of or at least reductions in trading difficulties with other countries, said Lloyd George.

There is the considered judgment of an elder statesman, a Liberal statesman. Why has he changed his viewpoint? Because he saw all about him throughout the world tariff barriers, and he was going to use this instrument for the purpose of effecting the prosperity of his people. Is there anyone within the sound of my voice to-night who does not know that had we not taken the action we did in 1930 we would not now be in a position to negotiate with our great neighbour? Everybody knows that that is so, and what is more, had we not done it, we could not have remained a solvent people. I shall elaborate that statement because, in view of the observations made this afternoon, I think it is desirable that I should do so.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Tuesday, January 22, 1935

The house met at three o'clock.

PRICE SPREADS AND MASS BUYING

INQUIRY AS TO CONCLUSION OF COMMISSION HEARINGS AND PRESENTATION OF REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister if he is in a position to advise the house as to when the royal commission on price spreads and mass buying is likely to conclude its proceedings and how soon the house may expect to receive its report? I think the Prime Minister will agree that if there is legislation to be based upon the report the house should have it as soon as possible.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government has no control over the price spreads commission nor has it sought in any way to limit or restrict its operations or to suggest to it the course of action it should pursue. I was last advised that the commission was endeavouring to close

[Mr. Bennett.]

its business by the date of the opening of the house. That however was impossible. My last information was that they were now endeavouring with every expedition to prepare a report for submission not to this house but, as it will be recalled, to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hanson). By that minister the report will be laid upon the table of the house.

I quite agree with what the right hon. gentleman has said as to the desirability of having the report concluded as soon as possible in order that the government may take cognizance of its contents, and determine to what extent legislation may be introduced founded upon the recommendations that are made. But I believe for the same reasons the right hon. gentleman will realize it would not be proper for the government to indicate to the commission how or when it should determine its hearing, but that we should rather leave it to the discretion of the commission as to the manner in which it would discharge its duties.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I agree with the Prime Minister in his concluding remarks. He will observe however that all I wished to know was whether or not it would be possible for him to ascertain from the commission when it might be in a position to report so that we may be guided in our actions accordingly.

BANK OF CANADA

INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF BANKING OPERATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) when we may expect the Bank of Canada to commence functioning?

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I am not in a position to make an announcement definitely, but it is anticipated it will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of March 1.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REPRESENTATIONS OF EMPLOYEES RESPECTING EQUIPMENT CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) based on a telegram I received this morning from the city of Stratford. It is as follows:

Lodge 103 International Association of Machinists at Stratford with over 400 members protests that contracts for new equipment for Canadian National railways be let to private