

The Address—Mr. Beaubien

exportation which will economize millions to the western farmers, because the freight rates will necessarily be in proportion to the shorter haul.

Among the questions which the speech from the throne mentions, there is one of the utmost importance to which I want to draw your attention. It is the question of immigration. The co-operation mentioned in the speech from the throne between the Dominion government and the provincial governments cannot but produce good results. The immigrant that we especially need is the one who can settle on the land. Too often, alas! the person who has indulged in the dream of becoming the owner of a large domain from which he will gather in the crops, is sadly deceived, not that the soil has ceased to be generous and fertile, but owing to the preconceived idea that one may become a farmer overnight and that it is but necessary to till the land to reap.

A mechanic cannot possibly become a good farmer in a day. Sometimes an immigrant is advised to go on the farm so as to acquire experience. It is a sound advice, but one must bear in mind that, as a rule, the farmer is not continuously in need of farm hands, it is then that the new arrival finds himself without work after having toiled very hard for some months only; he then takes the road which leads to the city whence he never returns. We may consider ourselves lucky if the large United States manufacturing centres do not entice him across the border. On other occasions, the immigrant who wants to become efficient on the land by hiring himself as a farm help, disagrees with his employer, and judging all other farmers by the latter who perhaps has wronged him, gives up all idea of farming. The combined action of the Dominion government and the provincial governments will, we hope, relieve the situation, and make of the immigrant to Canada, a contented settler. A settler who writes to his friends that he is satisfied with his lot, is the best colonization agent that we can wish for. It seems to me that our colonization agents have now an easy task: Canada is prosperous, great activity prevails in all spheres, the future is full of alluring promises.

On the whole, the speech from the throne leads us to believe that the government is going to pursue its progressive policy which it has inaugurated and that the Progressive members who have given it their sincere and loyal support will not have to withdraw their trust.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to second the motion.

[Mr. Beaubien.]

On motion of Mr. Bennett the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 4 p.m.

Monday, January 30, 1928

The house met at three o'clock.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Report of joint board of engineers, St. Lawrence waterways project, dated November 16, 1926—Mr. Mackenzie King.

Report on the selection of a terminal port for the Hudson Bay railway, October, 1927.—Mr. Dunning.

ELECTRICITY AND FLUID EXPORTATION ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. H. A. STEWART (Leeds) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, to regulate the exportation of electric power.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Explain.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, the object of this bill is to amend the existing law having to do with the exportation of electric power from Canada. At present this is governed by the provisions of the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act of 1907, and under that act the governor in council has authority to issue a license providing for the export of electric power from Canada. The effect of this bill is to provide that a license shall only issue by the authority of parliament, and on such terms as may be determined by parliament. The necessary amendments to the existing act are included in this bill, and there is an express provision that nothing contained in this bill shall be deemed in any way to affect the rights of the provinces in connection with electric power.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT

RESTORATION OF EXCLUDED POSITIONS

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, respecting the civil service.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Explain.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): This bill simply proposes to place under the operations of the Civil Service Act the employees of those departments of the government who have not been included up to the present.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.