

Inquiries of the Ministry

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

DESIGNATION OF "DOMINIONS"—REFERENCE TO REPORT IN "DAILY EXPRESS"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. The Canadian Press today carries news from London that the *Daily Express* there published yesterday information that the term "dominion" in relation to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa will be dropped and the term "commonwealth" will be used in its place. The *Express* is reported also to have said that this was done at the request of the dominion governments. My question to the Prime Minister is this: Did this government make such a request, and if such a request was made, when was it made?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): In reply to my hon. friend I would say that the government made no such request. I think myself that what the *Express* may have got hold of and wished to report upon was a change that has been made in the title of the office of Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in London. I understand that this morning Prime Minister Attlee announced in the British House of Commons that the title of Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs would hereafter be changed to Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations. That of course is a matter which is entirely within the jurisdiction of the British government itself. It may well be that some rumour has got abroad, which is inaccurate so far as it relates to any of the dominions.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I ask whether Canada was consulted in reference to the change of name of the department in the British government?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We were informed that the British government intended to make such a change and were asked whether any exception would likely be taken, the reply given was in language similar to that which I have expressed, namely that any change in title of one of its departments of government was a matter for the British

[Mr. Abbott.]

government itself to decide. I might add that the change in title is not one to which any objection could be taken here.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is there any truth in the rumour that the riding of Peel is to be dropped from the Dominion of Canada?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Whom did my hon. friend say?

Mr. GRAYDON: He says no.

SOIL PIPE

SHORTAGE IN TORONTO AREA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. HAROLD W. TIMMINS (Parkdale): May I ask a question of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply or of the parliamentary assistant? Having regard to the serious shortage of soil pipe in the Toronto area, has the department taken any recent steps to increase production of soil pipe? Has the matter been brought to its attention?

Mr. G. J. McILRAITH (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): The matter has been receiving active consideration for some time. I would prefer to let the other part of the question stand as notice and answer tomorrow.

EMIGRATION

DEPARTURE OF MENNONITES AND HUTTERITES FOR PARAGUAY

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): One day last week the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell) asked the following question to which I promised to obtain a reply. He said that the newspapers of June 26, 1947, contained stories that between 3,500 and 5,000 Mennonites are leaving for Paraguay. He added that:

... the foreshadowed emigration of a large number, some thousands, of Hutterites to the same country ...

was also foreshadowed. He asked whether I could make a statement regarding these departures, and I promised to get such information as was available in the various departments of government. I have been supplied with the following statement:

In February last an inquiry was made of the passport office by a law firm as to whether group certificates would be available covering the proposed departure from Canada of some 3,000 Mennonites, 1,500 of whom were said to