

Honourable Sir Lyman Poore Duff, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber this day at 5.50 p.m. for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to a certain Bill.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The Right Honourable Sir Lyman Poore Duff, the Deputy of the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned, and being come with their Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bill:

An Act respecting the taking of a Plebiscite in every electoral district in Canada and the taking of the votes at such Plebiscite of Canadian Service voters stationed within and without Canada.

The House of Commons withdrew.

The Right Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, March 10, at 8 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 10, 1942.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

DIVORCE JURISDICTION BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. COPP presented Bill D, an Act to amend the Divorce Jurisdiction Act, 1930. The Bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: For what date shall this Bill be placed on the Order Paper to be read the second time?

Hon. Mr. COPP: For next sitting.

Right Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: With leave of the Senate.

HONG KONG ATROCITIES

INQUIRY

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. C. E. TANNER: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I
The Hon. the SPEAKER.

should like to inquire of the right honourable leader of the House (Right Hon. Mr. Dandurand) whether it is his intention to make any statement to the Senate in reference to the very disturbing reports that are coming from Hong Kong. I should suppose that we in this country are much interested, having about seventeen hundred men over there, survivors of two regiments, one from the province of Quebec and the other from the province of Manitoba.

I observe that to-day, in the Imperial House of Commons, Mr. Eden, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, made a very strong statement in respect of what he says are the shocking atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers against British prisoners of war and the civil population. I presume a similar statement was made in the House of Lords. I should think that this Senate is entitled to receive information from the Government of Canada, so that we and the country may know what is and what is not true in respect of these very disturbing reports. I take it for granted that the Government has all the information on which Mr. Eden based his statement, and I suggest that this is no time to be silent or to shut our eyes to facts which may not be pleasing. We should know with certainty what is happening, especially having in mind that, as I said a moment ago, we have about seventeen hundred Canadian soldiers where these atrocities are being committed. I submit to my right honourable friend that he is the man to give us the facts. There can be no secrecy about the matter, for Mr. Eden announced that the facts which he gave to the House of Commons—I may say that I heard only a brief radio report of his address—were to be put into every language and sent all over the world, so that the world would know the kind of savages these Japanese are. We have twenty-five thousand or more Japanese people in this country, and we have been treating them as if they were the most gentle and well-behaved people in the world. Now, we want to know what is happening to the Canadians over in Hong Kong, and I ask my right honourable friend to tell us. He may not be able to do it to-night, but to-morrow at the latest he should give us a clear statement of the facts of the matter.

Right Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, it is needless for me to say that I concur in my honourable friend's statement that the Senate is entitled to all the information I can bring to it. As he will fully appreciate, it would be difficult for me to bring information here which the Minister of National Defence has not given