

After Recess

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS**CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS**

Bill No. 10, respecting the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada, and to change its name to London Fire Insurance Company of Canada.—Mr. Hocken.

Bill No. 36, to incorporate Guaranty Trust Company of Canada.—Mr. Chevrier.

Bill No. 34, to incorporate the British Consolidated General Insurance Corporation, and recommending that the title of said bill be changed to "An Act to incorporate the British Consolidated Insurance Corporation."—Mr. Irvine.

THE BUDGET**CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE ACTING MINISTER OF FINANCE**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Hon. J. A. Robb (Acting Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into committee of Ways and Means, and the proposed amendment thereto of Sir Henry Drayton.

Mr. W. G. McQUARRIE (New Westminster): I suppose I should congratulate the Minister of Labour on his "maiden budget speech" as he called it. A maiden speech should always be acknowledged, and even when a speech is so mature as this particular one was I presume there should be commendation. I do not wonder, however, that the minister apologized for it. It seems to me that a generous apology is due to the House for much of the material that was contained in the speech.

The minister in his introductory remarks told us that many matters had been referred to in the debate which should be "put right" and then he proceeded to put some of them right. The first thing he did was to rechristen the Immigration department. No doubt you noticed, Mr. Speaker, that he referred to it as the "Emigration" department. He spoke of the "Deputy Minister of Emigration" and also of the "emigration" policy of the government. I take it the characterization is most appropriate considering the fact that since this government came into power the number of people who have left Canada, as compared with those who have entered the Dominion, is rather alarming.

The minister entered into a discussion of conditions in Canada generally, and he quoted many statistics. He started by giving par-

[Mr. Speaker.]

ticulars as to the number of factories which had closed in Canada during certain years, and entered into a dispute with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association which amounted to this: It appears that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association had claimed that some thirteen hundred factories had closed in Canada, whereas, as a matter of fact, according to the list supplied to the minister there were only something like twelve hundred. The minister gave us all these figures. Personally I do not appreciate what he thought he was gaining by it, because even taking the minister's own figures conditions are bad enough in Canada. He referred to certain years, namely, 1914, 1915, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924. He was asked why he had chosen those particular years and made some kind of an explanation, but the real reason was obvious; he had taken a good deal of care in picking out those years and thought they would serve his purpose better than any other. It was quite obvious also that if the minister had intended to be fair he might have included the figures for the years 1912 and 1913 before the war.

The minister also gave some figures dealing with wool-pulling establishments. I wonder did he include in his statement the attempt of the government to pull the wool over the eyes of the people in the matter of the budget surplus, which has been referred to by someone as a cross-word puzzle, the answer being the seven-letter word spelling "deficit".

The minister spoke on matters connected with a great many departments of the government but said very little about his own. I think one subject which might be included in his department was that of unemployment. The minister pretended to show that there was no real unemployment in the Dominion, and in this respect that Canada was in a much better position than many other countries. The minister spoke of conditions in the United States as being bad, and he referred to the emigration to the United States from this country as not amounting to very much; in fact, as he put it himself, he wanted to dispel the theory which was being advanced in some quarters that Canada was going to the merry bow-wows, and, as he said, wished to sound a note of optimism. It seems to me the minister has gained the reputation of being the sunshine purveyor of this administration; he sought to diffuse sunshine all over the House. According to him everything is lovely in Canada, there is nothing to complain about; and, as he says himself, for that condition the government is responsible. However, he hedged a little later when