

any time they liked. I do not say anything in this bill as to Thanksgiving day, I leave that entirely open; I provide in one section that Armistice day shall be celebrated on November 11 and upon no other day.

Mr. BOURASSA: I am opposed to that.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

VANCOUVER—SEYMOUR NARROWS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. I. A. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) whether he has as yet received a report from the commission investigating the question of the ripple rock at the entrance to the Seymour Narrows in British Columbia, and if so, when he intends to present the same to parliament.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): The report has been received but has not yet been considered by my department.

PEACE RIVER RAILWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. KENNEDY (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) advise the house if he has yet received the report from his department as to the route of the Peace River railway?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) was good enough to advise me a couple of days ago that he was going to ask this question and I made inquiry thereon. I have been informed by the officers of the department that all reports which have been received have been already tabled in the house. Those that have been tabled are procurable at the distribution office. I believe the last one tabled was in May, 1929, and referred to branch lines. If my hon. friend has any other report in mind and will advise me I shall be glad to look into it further.

CIVIL SERVICE

CHARGES OF POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP AGAINST OFFICIALS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) if he is aware that letters are being sent out, at least from one department, the Post Office Department, and possibly from others, to persons in the civil service accusing them of partisanship without giving the name of the

accuser or any information with regard to the charge. Members of the civil service are being called upon to make an affidavit proving themselves innocent on pain of dismissal if that affidavit is not made. This practice is contrary to the usual rule and I think the Minister of Justice will be the first to appreciate that a man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty. Will the hon. minister consider having these letters recalled in view of their infraction of the rules and regulations which have existed in connection with the civil service?

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): I do not know of anything which has been done in any department not in accordance with the usual practice in such matters, nor have I any personal knowledge of the letters to which my hon. friend has referred. I shall make inquiry into the matter and if I find that there is anything amiss I shall have no objection to calling the attention of the department to that matter. So far I have heard of nothing which departs from the usual practice in such matters.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—LIMOILLOU SHOPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) to the fact that the Canadian National shops at Limoilou were burned yesterday. Owing to the fact that several hundred employees were deported from Rivière du Loup to St. Malo in 1920, do the Canadian National railways intend to send some of the men formerly employed at Limoilou shops to Rivière du Loup?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The point raised by the hon. member is entirely of an administrative character but I shall be very glad to bring his remarks to the attention of the management.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Mr. Speaker, the main argument of the Conservative party during the last campaign was that a disastrous situation existed in Can-