

CANADIAN NAVAL SERVICE.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK moved:

That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before the Senate all papers, documents and correspondence passed between the Canadian Government and the British Government, or between any Minister, member, or official of the Canadian Government and any member or official of the British Admiralty, or between any persons or officials thereof, since 1909, giving details and particulars as regards the negotiations on naval affairs leading up to the agreement which was arrived at after the Imperial Conference of 1911, as to the movement of vessels outside the three-mile limit and the establishment of naval stations for the ships transferred to or purchased for the Canadian Naval Service; also, copies of regulations governing the movement of vessels of the Canadian Navy at the present time.

The motion was agreed to.

REPORTS BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: May I draw the attention of the honourable leader of the Government to a number of reports that were presented in another place a few days ago by the Minister of Finance. I do not think they have been laid on the table of the House. Perhaps my honourable friend would inquire into the matter and have them brought down here.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, I will.

DOMINION ELECTIONS BILL.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING.

On motion of the Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into Committee on Bill A, an Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act. Hon. Mr. Daniel in the Chair.

On paragraph a of new subsection 4 of section 101—list of voters:

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, I made an explanation yesterday touching paragraph a, which may possibly require a little further explanation to-day. I informed my honourable friend from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) that this Bill had been prepared by the Solicitor General and I understood it had been submitted to the authorities in Ontario. I understand now, from further inquiry, that this Bill has been prepared by Mr. Biggar, who is attached as counsel to the Department of Justice, and that it has

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been placed in the hands of the Hon. Mr. Guthrie, the Acting Solicitor General, and meets the situation which we wish to cover. It is proposed that the Dominion Elections Act of last Session should be amended. I would direct the attention of honourable gentlemen to the last clause of that Act, that is to say, subsection 3 of section 101, which reads as follows:

Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the list of voters as finally revised and completed for use in the provincial election in the Province of Ontario held in the month of October, 1919, shall be used without revision for any vote in that Province under this section taken before the thirty-first day of December, 1920.

Apparently it was intended that the plebiscite in Ontario should be taken before the 31st of December, 1920; that the vote should be taken upon the lists which had been used in the provincial elections of that province in 1919, and, furthermore, that they should not be further revised. Circumstances have apparently delayed the taking of the vote. The consequence is that the Government has been called upon to make provision for the vote which is to be taken in that province on the 18th of April next. It is felt by the Government—and due consideration has been given to this fact—that the lists which were used in the Ontario elections of 1919 should be used for this particular vote, and that those lists should be supplemented in the way indicated in the Bill now before us. That is to say, it is proposed that we shall add to those lists as provided for in this Bill—that in polling divisions in rural districts the list, which is not a closed list, shall be open, as is already the law, to those who wish to vote. The machinery of the law is to be found in the Dominion Elections Act, which I have now before me, and which permits a voter in a rural district to tender his vote and to have his vote properly recorded.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: That is under section 63, is it?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes. But in urban districts the list is a closed list: it cannot be added to in the way a list in a rural district is added to. The consequence is that there must be in urban districts a revision of the list if those who do not appear upon the list are to be given an opportunity to vote upon the question that is being submitted to the electors. It is for the purpose of making provision for this that we have the legislation which we are now considering.

I desire to point out, honourable gentlemen, that should this legislation not be