

such a storm that the reciprocity proposal was rejected.

My honourable friend (Hon. Sir James Loughheed) said that overnight the West had banded together and formed a third party, rejecting the other two. I verily believe that that organization started from the day that the East denied the West the American market which was at its door.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 5, 1924.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

CIVIL SERVICE HOLIDAYS

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. G. H. BRADBURY: Honourable gentlemen, I desire to draw the attention of the Government of the day to a matter to which I think their attention ought to have been drawn some time ago, and that is the custom of this Government, and the late Government, in defying an Act of Parliament. In 1918 Parliament passed a law declaring what should be the public holidays in Canada, and ever since that Act was passed it has been systematically ignored. I will place on record the statutory holidays in this country. I read now from the Statutes of Canada, 1919-20, Chapter 41, clause 6:

The Civil Service Act, 1918, is hereby amended by inserting therein, immediately after section thirty-three, the following section:—

"33A. The following days and none other shall be the holidays to be observed in and by the Civil Service:—

- (1) Sundays;
- (2) New Year's Day;
- (3) Good Friday;
- (4) Easter Monday;
- (5) Victoria Day;
- (6) The birthday of the reigning Sovereign, or the day fixed by proclamation by the Governor in Council for the celebration thereof;
- (7) Dominion Day;
- (8) Labour Day.
- (9) Christmas Day;
- (10) Any day appointed by proclamation by the Governor in Council to be observed as a general fast or thanksgiving or as a holiday."

I presume, honourable gentlemen, that it is in view of this last clause that the Govern-

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

ment assume that by Order in Council they may declare a public holiday for the Civil Service of this country. I submit that if the present Government has declared to-day a public holiday under this statute, it is absolutely illegal; that it is not within their rights to declare this a holiday, in the face of this statute. This practice has been going on year after year. To-day is only one of four or five days which the Government have been illegally declaring as holidays, notwithstanding the law. When it is remembered that each of these holidays is costing the country between \$200,000 and \$300,000, perhaps you will realize how serious the matter is. We have in Canada, in round numbers, 40,000 civil servants, and every one of these is entitled to the holidays provided by this statute. Perhaps it is under paragraph 10 of the clause that the Government declares this day a holiday. That paragraph reads as follows:

Any day appointed by proclamation by the Governor in Council to be observed as a general fast or thanksgiving or as a holiday.

I submit, honourable gentlemen, you cannot read into this clause any power conferred on the Government to declare a holiday for the Civil Service. It simply means that if the Government desired to declare a general fast day throughout Canada for all the people, they would then be within their rights; but I wish to point out to this honourable House that it is illegal and unjustifiable to declare this day a holiday.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I do not know that my honourable friend has the right to raise this question as one of privilege.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: It was a question raised on the Orders of the Day. I presume I have a right to raise it in that way.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: On the Orders of the Day there are of course certain questions that may be raised, but they are limited in number. They are questions that are so pressing as to justify their being brought up without notice. Now, my honourable friend has failed to observe that he is condemning the House of Commons for their action in this matter. It is not the Senate, because we are sitting to-day. Apparently the Commons have in their wisdom deemed it proper not to sit to-day. I do not know whether the holiday which they have taken for themselves has been extended to the civil servants in the various departments.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: It has.