

Mr. JACQUES BUREAU (Three Rivers and St. Maurice): Are these measures in addition to the Bills already on the Order Paper?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: As to the Bills on the Order Paper, we are giving our consideration to the possibility of allowing some of them to stand until the next session. My hon. friend may be assured that we are no more anxious to stay here during this hot weather than he is, and he may rely upon it that we shall give our best attention to the matter which obviously was in his mind when he asked his question.

Mr. BUREAU: This new list does not indicate any anxiety to get through soon.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It shows a regard for our duty, notwithstanding the heat.

Mr. J. J. DENIS (Joliette): There is now on the Order Paper a Bill to encourage the construction and improvement of highways. This is a very important Bill in my opinion, and I should like to know whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed with it this session.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not think that so far we have shown any disposition not to proceed with it, inasmuch as we sat until nearly half-past two the other morning in order to secure the passage of the resolution on which this Bill is based. The Bill now stands for second reading, and I do not think my hon. friend need have any apprehension about it.

THE BRUCE REPORT.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Maison-neuve): I notice that the press this morning gives us for the first time the famous Bruce answer to the Babbie report, in the form of an abstract, I understand, from a book published by Dr. Bruce. May we expect that the Minister of Militia and Defence will now lay on the table the answer itself as it was sent to the Government?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): It seems to me that I made an answer on that subject either last session or the session before. At the moment I do not know of any reason why I should depart from the view which I then took. However, I shall give consideration to what my hon. friend suggests.

ALLEGED IMPRISONMENT OF CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN SIBERIA.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. JOSEPH ARCHAMBAULT (Chambly and Vercheres): I wish to ask the hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence (Major General Mewburn) a question. A few days ago I had an interview with men returned from Siberia who had reported under the Military Service Act and were forced to board a train for Victoria against their will. They were then forced to embark on a boat for Siberia at the point of the bayonet. Some of them resisted and they were court-martialled and condemned to two years' hard labour. I understand that some of them are still in Siberia undergoing that penalty. I would like to know if the minister is aware of that fact and, if so, if instructions to that effect were given by him.

Major-General MEWBURN: In answer to the hon. gentleman, I may say that I have no such information. I doubt very much the correctness of his statement. General Elmsley will be here in two or three days and I will inquire of him about it, but I doubt its correctness. All our troops have been withdrawn from Siberia except one or two details that volunteered to stay there for one or two months. All the rest have been returned to Canada.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: Were these men forced, under the instructions of the Department of Militia, to embark on this boat against their will?

Major-General MEWBURN: They were not.

INQUIRIES FOR REPORTS AND PAPERS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. MCKENZIE: I wish to bring to the notice of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), and possibly that of the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Burrell), the fact that the hon. member for Queens, P.E.I. (Mr. Sinclair), obtained an order for the return of some papers in connection with the Seaview post office in Prince Edward Island. They have not yet been brought down and it is very desirable that they should be. There was also an order of the House, dated June 9, for some papers in regard to the maritime seed fair. It is highly desirable that these papers should be brought down if possible.

Mr. BURRELL: I shall make inquiry.