

Mr. HOWARD: I think the minister missed the point I was trying to make. He is practically permitting the Canadian National Railways to do something that other companies cannot do with regard to the highways.

Mr. MANION: We are not permitting the Canadian National to do anything; the Canadian National itself has entered into the contract, and I assume this company, like any other corporation, will have to remain within the laws of the provinces. The contract was drawn up by the lawyers of the Canadian National, and I assume they took into account whatever laws might affect this advertising.

TARIFF BOARD—APPLICATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): Yesterday the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Sanderson) directed a question to me; he wished to know what applications for hearings had been received by the tariff board from Canadian and British firms. Upon inquiry I find that my predecessor, the late Mr. Robb, took the position with respect to similar requests when the former tariff board was in existence that to give this information in the ordinary course was not in the public interest. That practice obtained during the existence of the former board. I must say that I think that position was quite sound, and it is the intention of the present administration to follow the same practice, so that any information which is desired will come from time to time as and when the hearings take place before the board.

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): As I recollect it, Mr. Speaker, the former practice was to advertise these hearings so that all interested could be heard if they so desired.

Mr. RHODES: The same practice will obtain with respect to the new board, as I understand it, but my hon. friend must realize that the board is only starting its work.

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): I might remind the minister that when he answered my question yesterday he said he would let the house have the information to-day.

Mr. RHODES: I beg my hon. friend's pardon; here is what I said:

Obviously I will have to ask that my hon. friend's question stand as a notice, and I will give an answer to-morrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AS TO
LEGISLATION TO BE BROUGHT DOWN

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I promised yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that I would advise the house as to whether or not it was the intention of the government to proceed with the redistribution bill. It is proposed to proceed with that bill at once. The other bills on the order paper will be proceeded with also, with the possible exception of the bill dealing with admiralty courts, which may not be proceeded with this session in view of the fact that the shipping bill is not being pressed. The arrangement made in 1926, 1929 and 1930 with respect to shipping contemplated uniform bills throughout the British Empire. It was felt that when the statute of Westminster was passed and admiralty courts acts were adopted by the various dominions we would have a fair measure of uniformity having regard to the different conditions existing in the various dominions, but the shipping acts themselves, modelled on the Merchant Shipping Act, would be similar for reasons that I fancy I need not state in this house.

That was the view taken at the Imperial conference in 1926, and again in 1929 and 1930. Inasmuch as there has been no legislation of that character passed as yet by the other dominions the matter is further under consideration; the shipping bill is not being proceeded with and a further opportunity will be given to study the various provisions of our act and other acts that may be drafted by the other dominions in order that we may carry out the understanding agreed upon at the imperial conferences and the drafting committee conference in 1929. The Admiralty Court Act, therefore, following on that, will not be passed. The other bills on the order paper will be proceeded with whenever the opportunity offers. There is one other matter, namely, a short bill to grant the governor in council power to extend the duration of the New Zealand treaty beyond the 24th day of May of this year, when it expires. There is the French trade agreement, if an agreement is submitted to the house to be dealt with, and there is an amendment to the Excise Act which cannot be submitted until after the budget provisions have been entirely adopted, because they contain administrative machinery dealing with legislation that has been and will be considered by the house with respect to the budget. At the moment, after conferring with my colleagues, I do not think there is any other legislation except an amendment, to