

*Peace River—Railway Outlet*

no order from 1926 to 1930. I am told that the clerk of the privy council has assumed that where a prime minister has been in office on a previous occasion, and is returned and continues in office, the old order still has force.

The only variation in the orders passed by myself and by my predecessors since the time of Sir Charles Tupper has been that in the original recommendation of Sir Charles the railway committee was included in the list of appointments designated as the prerogative of the Prime Minister in section 4 of the first two orders in council. This committee was deleted for obvious reasons from the list of appointments, under P.C. 2437 of October 10, 1911, and from subsequent orders in council.

Then in the case of the last two orders in council, namely P.C. 1930 of 1930 and P.C. 3374 of 1935, the original wording of section 3 has been slightly altered to read "recommendations affecting the discipline of the department of another minister" instead of "the discipline of another department".

That is the extent of the changes made. I have been told to be sure to inform the house that this list does not include all the prerogatives of the Prime Minister.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is the list being tabled?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am tabling all the orders.

Motion agreed to.

WAR ASSETS—ESTEVAN AIRPORT BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia):

For a copy of all correspondence, since July 1, 1944, in the possession of War Assets Corporation or any department of the government with reference to the disposition of Estevan airport buildings and equipment.

R.C.A.F. BUILDINGS AT NORTH BATTLEFORD

Mr. CAMPBELL:

For a copy of all correspondence and telegrams exchanged between any department of the government and the city council of North Battleford or any other person or persons, from July 1, 1945, to date, regarding the sale of R.C.A.F. buildings at North Battleford.

CURRIE MEMORIAL AND SOLDIERS' CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL, MONTREAL

Mr. DIEFENBAKER:

For a copy of all correspondence between Mr. David, of Montreal, Quebec, an architect, and any of his employees with the Department of National Defence, and/or the Department of Public Works, and/or the Department of Veterans Affairs, regarding plans for the prospective erection (including the cancellation of such plans, if any) of the Currie Memorial hospital and/or the Soldiers' Convalescent hospital in the city of Montreal.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

PEACE RIVER DISTRICT

RAILWAY OUTLET TO PACIFIC COAST

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Cariboo) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give immediate consideration to the building of a railway outlet from the Peace River country to the Pacific coast.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I need hardly say that the resolution which I now rise to discuss is not worded as forcefully and as specifically as I should like it to be. But for certain restrictions imposed upon me by the rules of the house I should have the resolution read: "That this parliament endorse the building of the Peace River outlet, forthwith." However, members know full well that private members are not permitted to offer motions which might involve the expenditure of public moneys. I do not see why such motions should not be made by private members. We represent the people who are taxed; we should have some say in how much they are taxed, and how their taxes are to be expended. However, I shall not stop now to discuss amendments to the rules of the house. I merely say in passing that we are compelled by the limitations of the rules to restrict our expressions in matters of this kind. So that the resolution can only ask that the government give consideration to the building of the line, as desired.

I wish to express the hope that hon. members will not talk the resolution out. It is a practice sometimes indulged in. I should like in that connection to say that a long-deferred hope has saddened the hearts of the people in the area which will be directly affected by the proposed railway. I am asking that the house pass the resolution, and thus give them at least some basis for encouragement. But if we cannot see our way clear to pass the resolution, I think it would be better to face it squarely and fairly and vote it down, thereby putting out the *ignis fatuus*, that dazzling, sparkling, phosphorescent light of political promises which, in the past, has been leading the people toward futility. It would be better for us to put out forever these tantalizing, false beacon-lights which mark the road to nowhere.

The proposal which I would ask the government to consider, and which I would ask hon. members to authorize the government to consider, is to build a railroad line to connect the Pacific Great Eastern with the Northern Alberta railroad, which would incorporate both lines into the Canadian National railway system, and would connect the two branch lines mentioned.