

There is another point with respect to the banks. It is a sort of collateral thing. I have thought for a long time that the banks of this country were making too much money. They toil not neither do they spin, but they make it and in addition to paying very large dividends they are erecting all over the country most expensive buildings, buildings that are out of keeping, it seems to me, with mercantile business. While the poor people of this country who deposit their money in the savings banks are getting only 3 per cent for their money, the bankers are getting eight and nine per cent and more. If the government wished to benefit the people at large they should increase the rate of interest paid to depositors in the savings banks. This is not an expert opinion. I am not a financier, I simply look on this thing from the outside.

It is not necessary that I should say anything about the increased representation of the western provinces in the Senate. The primary thing is that the electors of those provinces should be represented in the Chamber which does represent the electors. I assume that the motives of the government in proposing to add to the Senate from that part of the country are entirely good and honest, but they are putting the cart before the horse, so to say, and the better way is to redistribute and give the people the increased representation in the Commons and then increase the representation in the Senate. There is no urgent necessity for increasing the number of senators. The Senate is large enough already. We have 87 members—about as many members as there are in the Senate of the United States where they have a population of one hundred millions. I think our 87 members can do the business for some time in a way that will be satisfactory to the country if not altogether to the satisfaction of the government.

There is just one point to which I suppose the attention of the hon. leader of the House has been directed, but I may be allowed to quote it because it bears out the view I had entertained of that paragraph of the speech which deals with the naval question. I find that yesterday this ques-

tion was asked of Mr. Asquith in the House of Commons in England:

Whether his attention has been called to the speech from the Throne at the opening of the Canadian parliament, declaring it imperative that the effective naval forces of the empire should be strengthened without delay, and if so is the Canadian government warranted in coming to such conclusion from information supplied by the Imperial government, and whether the home Government intends waiting for a Canadian contribution before strengthening the navy.

The reply of Mr. Asquith was purely non-committal. He said:

Memorandum had been prepared at the express wish of the Canadian government, which defined with fullness and precision, the position adopted by the Imperial government. This would be laid before the House without delay, but must first go before the Canadian government.

I suppose that at any rate when the Naval Bill comes down we shall have an explanation.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN moved that the debate be adjourned until to-morrow.

The motion was agreed to.

NEW SENATORS.

Hon. William McKay, of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Patrick Chas. Murphy, of Prince Edward Island.

The Senate adjourned until three o'clock to-morrow.

THE SENATE.

FRIDAY, November 29, 1912.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and Routine Proceedings.

SENATOR SULLIVAN'S SEAT.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved:

That the Hon. Michael Sullivan having failed to give his attendance in the Senate during two consecutive sessions of Parliament, his place therein is hereby declared vacant, in accordance with paragraph 1, section 31, British North America Act, 1867.

The motion was agreed to.