

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, March 13, 1928

The house met at three o'clock.

NIAGARA GORGE BRIDGE COMPANY

Mr. F. WELLINGTON HAY (North Perth)
moved:

That in accordance with the recommendation contained in the third report of the select standing committee on miscellaneous private bills, the fee and charges made on Bill No. 25, an act to incorporate the Niagara Gorge Bridge Company, be refunded, less cost of printing and translating the bill.

Motion agreed to.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LANDS

FINAL REPORT OF MR. JUSTICE MARTIN TABLED

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I beg to lay on the table a copy of the final report of Mr. Justice Martin, appointed a commissioner to receive and enquire into the arguments of the government of the province of British Columbia in support of its claim for reconveyance to the province by the government of Canada of the land conveyed by the province to the Dominion pursuant to paragraph 2 of the terms of the union. I move that 1,000 copies in English and 500 copies in French of the said report be printed, and that standing order 64 be suspended in connection therewith.

Motion agreed to.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT

JOINT HEARINGS OF RAILWAY AND INTERSTATE
COMMERCE COMMISSIONS

Mr. E. G. ODETTE (East Essex) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 64, to amend the Railway Act (Joint hearings of Board and Interstate Commerce Commission).

Mr. DUNNING: Explain.

Mr. ODETTE: The object of the bill is to empower the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada to hold joint hearings with the Interstate Commerce Commission, either in the United States or in Canada, regarding matters appertaining to international

rates and questions of a like character. A similar bill is now before the House of Representatives in Washington.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

THE BUDGET

DEBATE ON ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF
MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed from Monday, March 12, consideration of the motion of Hon. J. A. Robb (Minister of Finance), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means, the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Cahane and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Fansher (East Lambton).

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the debate which is about to be concluded, I think I can fairly say, has permitted discussion of a very wide range, which discussion—one can say this without flattery to the house—has been of a very high character and has shown a marked determination on the part of various members to understand the problems with which we have to deal. It has been called a budget debate; just why it has been so described I am at a loss to understand. The hon. member for Hants-Kings (Mr. Ilsley) the other day defined a budget, very properly, as a statement of the expected expenditures of the country, together with its estimated revenues, indicating the sources from which those revenues would be derived and the manner in which the expenditures would be made. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) has given us a story about events that will terminate on March 31 this year. He has not given us a single word indicating what his revenues are to be for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1929, although it is to this year that the estimates relate. Nor has he given us any indication as to where his revenues will come from. This would not be permitted in any other country that I know of under the British flag. To call the statement submitted to the house a budget is to misuse words; the term is a misnomer. The only