

on account of the numerous countries the territories whereof formed part of Austria, but which have become independent by the operation of the Treaty and whose relations in regard to these matters call for being specially dealt with.

The provisions for dealing with property and rights are on similar lines and substantially the same. The provisions with regard to ports, railways and rivers are, with the changes necessary by reason of the different territories concerned, similar to those of the German Treaty. The labour conditions are identical.

Taking the instrument as a whole, the principles and the lines upon which it is drawn being precisely those on which the German Treaty was drawn, while we would be quite disposed, if the Treaty arrives before this session of Parliament is terminated, to submit it to Parliament, it did not seem that it would be necessary or that we would be justified in calling a special session to deal with it, in view of the action of Parliament on the substantially similar Treaty with Germany.

Now, by the effect of the present amendment there is not expressed approval of this Treaty, but in anticipation of its being ratified the power is conferred to do such things as may be necessary to carry it out and give it effect. Of course, to its ratification will be essential the advice of His Majesty's advisers, the Government of this country. Were it not for the action that Parliament has already taken in approving the substantially similar treaty with Germany, it might, perhaps, be suggested that it would be necessary, or at all events desirable, to submit this one separately. But in view of its absolute similarity, that appears to be an unnecessary proceeding which, if it involved an additional special session, would be also a very expensive proceeding. All that the House is asked in this regard is to accept the Government's statement of the similarity existing between the two Treaties and the statement already made that it is on that basis that the Government would take the responsibility of advising the ratification of the Treaty.

With regard to the other Treaties which have not as yet been entered into or signed and concerning the effect of which the Government is, of course, not in a position to make any statement, it seems to us that in so far as the amendment adopted by the Senate confers powers for the carrying out of Treaties which have not yet been signed—treaties which may deal with matters not necessarily dealt with in the German

[Mr. Doherty.]

Treaty and matters which it is difficult for us to foresee in any way at the present time—we would not be justified in asking Parliament to deal with such prospective Treaties even so far as to confer powers to be exercised under them, assuming that upon their being entered into they would be found suitable for ratification and would be ratified.

Therefore, as I have said, we purpose asking this House to accept the amendment of the Senate in so far as the Austrian Treaty is concerned, but to decline to accept it in so far as the other treaties referred to are concerned. I beg, in consequence, to move:

1. That the first five amendments made by the Senate to the said Bill be concurred in.

These five amendments are simply putting the word "treaties" in the plural instead of the word "treaty" in the singular.

2. That in the amendment to the preamble all the words after "the plenipotentiaries therein named" be struck out, and that the amendment as amended be concurred in.

3. That the amendment made by the Senate in the title of the Bill be concurred in.

This amendment consists simply in using the word "treaties" in the plural instead of the word "treaty" in the singular.

Mr. VIEN: Is the minister aware of the fact that this Bill as amended by the Senate has not been reprinted nor distributed to the members?

Mr. DOHERTY: I do not think it is customary to reprint and redistribute Bills that come back from the Senate. We are proceeding in regard to this Bill in the usual way. I asked to have some copies made of the amendments and to have them furnished to the leader of the Opposition, and I hope they have reached him.

Mr. McKENZIE: I have received them.

Mr. ANDREW ROSS McMASTER (Brome): It would appear to me that what the Government asks the House to do this afternoon creates a very unwholesome precedent. By passing the amendments made by the Senate which the Government desires us to pass, we practically, although not in so many words, approve, if we do not ratify the Treaty of Peace with Austria. I would lay it down as a principle, when we are starting, so to speak, our dealings as a nation with other nations, that if the approval or ratification of this House is to be sought on any treaty between Canada and any other power whatsoever, that Treaty should be before the House, so that every member, no matter