

import in only limited quantities and at an exorbitantly high price. The gentleman who established that proof was Colonel Cantley, who is now a member of the other House. And the late J. H. Plummer, the then President of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, demonstrated to the authorities that his concern could produce toluol, the essential element of T.N.T., which is the basis of high explosives. Within a few weeks one of these Nova Scotia plants was producing the basic steel which was used in the manufacture of millions of shells, and the other had a creditable output of toluol.

If a German cruiser had come through the chops of the channel, even though she sacrificed herself, she could have first destroyed, from a deep water position where she would have been perfectly safe, those steel works and the range of collieries which were supplying coal to them and to our ships. No such daring raid was made, but honourable members can easily imagine the serious effect that might have been brought about at the time.

I entirely dissent from the suggestion by the honourable gentleman from Edmonton that Canada is treading the primrose path. I admit that the primrose path is dangerous and enervating, but the fact is that since the first white man settled on the shores of the St. Lawrence, or in Nova Scotia, the course followed by Canada has never been an easy one. In every decade she has found it necessary to make brave decisions and carry out difficult tasks, and so far she has never failed to acquit herself proudly.

I submit, honourable members, that in discussing a question of this kind we should make no reference to what one party or another has done, or whether one industry or another would have been benefited by a certain course. Our object should be to consider the interests of the country at large, and to meet existing problems in the same spirit as that which has enabled Canada to carry on so successfully in the past.

QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS BILL

SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 33, an Act to amend the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

He said: Honourable members, I understand this measure provides for the decennial renewal of the charters of savings banks in Quebec. The honourable senator opposite (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) knows far more about the matter than I do.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This relates to the general Act under which savings banks in Quebec operate. It comes up for review every ten years, as does the Bank Act, under which the commercial banks receive their charters. Formerly there were a number of savings banks throughout the province, but gradually some have been absorbed by other banks or by the Post Office, and to-day there remain but two, one in the city of Montreal and the other in the city of Quebec. I suppose this Bill will be sent on to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I understand that any changes in the Bank Act are reflected in this measure.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, June 19, at 8 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, June 19, 1934.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

EXCISE BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. F. B. BLACK presented the report of the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce on Bill 89, an Act to amend and consolidate the Excise Act, and moved concurrence therein.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Is there only one amendment?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. According to the officers of the department, the words "seized as," inserted in line 45 before the word "forfeited," form the correct phrase, "seized as forfeited," used elsewhere in the Bill. These words fit into the new section 169A, giving the innocent party claiming to have an interest, aside from that of the offender, in the property seized as forfeited, an opportunity to prove his case.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am in sympathy with the amendment. I heard the discussion before the standing committee and felt that in simple justice something should be done to relieve the innocent victim of the seizure.