

Elections Act

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why did not the government put in the resolution some of these reasons which they pressed on the conference?

Mr. VIEN: Mr. Speaker, the resolution passed by the House in no way constituted instructions to the managers that discussed the matter on behalf of the Commons. When this House was requested by the Senate to agree to the amendments, we passed the resolution stating the reasons why this House could not concur. After that, when the Senate advised this House that they would insist on their amendments, we decided to appoint managers, but, I repeat, our managers were in no wise restricted by the terms of the resolution. They were given an absolute mandate, unrestricted by the terms of the resolution, to press for the withdrawal of the Senate amendments.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I answer my right hon. friend's question as to our not including what we said in the resolution? One of the reasons given is, "because the title, principle, policy and economy of the said bill as passed by the House of Commons has been completely altered." That includes absolutely everything.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It includes the policy of the bill, the economy of the bill—everything.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1924, AMENDMENT

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Right Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (for the Acting Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 239, to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act, 1924.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

AUDIT BOARD

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Right Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (for the Acting Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 233, to constitute an audit board.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Mr. Speaker, may we learn what the amendments are?

[Mr. Graham.]

Mr. GRAHAM: The following words are stricken from section eight:

—with respect to the audit of the public accounts of Canada or any detail thereof

The whole section reading, without these words:

Nothing herein contained shall impair the authority given by the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act to the Auditor General of Canada.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is the effect of the change?

Mr. GRAHAM: I think the Senate considered these words superfluous and that under the Audit Act the Auditor General has full power.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No limitation?

Mr. GRAHAM: Nothing.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Hon. A. B. COPP (Secretary of State) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 148 to amend the Dominion Elections Act, as amended.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: May we learn, Mr. Speaker, what the changes are?

Mr. COPP: There is a very slight amendment changing section four regarding the appointment of the returning officer. As we passed the section the Secretary of State would make the appointment. The Senate have added the words:

The Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the Secretary of State.

The provision that the returning officer shall be appointed for one year is amended by providing for appointment "during pleasure".

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: To permit of patronage if another government should come into office.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Is my right hon. friend serious in that remark? It seems to me that he has all the patronage he wants; he is taking all he can get, here, there and everywhere, by proceeding without regard to the Civil Service Act wherever possible. If my right hon. friend is serious, why does he accept this amendment?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: He wants to get through the session.