

moment to vote our approval of the Treaty itself. I do not believe it is fair to Parliament or fair to the country, and for that reason, if my honourable friend moves, we on this side of the House will move that the resolution be not now considered, but that it be considered this day three weeks, or this day two weeks. We owe a duty to the country and to ourselves not to bind ourselves to the Treaty as a whole without having had a chance to read it.

I have just been reading a study of the Treaty by one of the principal historians of France, who said that it had taken the representatives of the Allies six months to bring about the Treaty, and that it had taken him six weeks to analyse it and put in writing his views. We are but asking time to read and digest this important document.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I shall not proceed with the motion to-day. I am willing that this motion should stand until to-morrow; but when to-morrow comes I purpose asking the House to proceed with it. The Commons will proceed to deal with the matter to-morrow, and there is no reason why the Senate should not do so. Furthermore, I say to my honourable friend, and he must be fully aware of it, because he is in touch with the latest cable news, that as long ago as the 28th of May last the purport of this Treaty was cabled to Canada in English and in French, and was circulated; and the reading public, particularly the public men of Canada, should certainly be seized with the fullest knowledge of the contents of the Treaty. While with all due deference I accept what my honourable friend says as to his want of knowledge of the Treaty, yet every opportunity has been given to everybody in Canada to become acquainted with its purport. I move that the resolution stand until to-morrow.

The resolution stands.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Thursday, September 4, 1919.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT BILL.

FIRST READING.

Bill, an Act to amend the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment Act.—
Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

SMOKY RIVER COAL LEASES.

INQUIRY AS TO CANCELLATION.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK inquired of the Government:

(a) If their attention has been drawn to a statement appearing in the Free Press published in Winnipeg on the 28th August, 1919, as coming from their Ottawa correspondent, which expresses a doubt as to whether the coal leases issued on the Smoky River to Col. Shillington had been cancelled.

(b) If these leases were cancelled by the Minister of the Interior in July, 1919.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED:

(a) The attention of the department had not previously been called to the article.

(b) The Order in Council dated the 1st of July, 1919, P.C. 1369, authorizes the cancellation of eight coal mining leases bearing date the 29th and 30th of August, 1918, issued in favour of A. E. Austin, W. Barnett, R. W. McClung, A. H. Weir, C. W. Coppock, G. E. H. Hauff, J. A. Leask and W. R. Gouin, and assigned on the 27th of January, 1919, to C. A. Barnard, K.C., of Montreal, and Adam T. Shillington, M.D., of Ottawa, and that the rights described in these several leases be reserved to the Crown. The eight leases were accordingly cancelled in the records of the Department of the Interior and the solicitor of the lessees was advised accordingly.

COMMITTEE ON SELECTION.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the adoption of the first report of the Committee of Selection appointed to nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees for the present session.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, the only changes made in the Committees are as follows: Hon. Senator Power replaces the late Senator Taylor of Leeds on the Joint Committee on Printing; Hon. Senator Webster replaces the late Senator Taylor of Leeds on the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts; on the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, Hon. Senator Fowler replaces the late Senator McLaren.

The motion was agreed to.