Friday, May 31, 1935.

The house met at three o'clock.

CURRENCY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster) moved for leave to introduce a bill to amend the Currency Act.

He said: Three changes are contemplated by this bill. The first is to increase the silver content of the silver dollar from ·800 to ·925, as it formerly was until 1921, I believe. The second change is that silver coins be made legal tender for any amount. At present silver can be refused for payments over $10. The third change is in regard to notes, that notes also be made payable in silver. But the real object sought in the three changes is a further step towards Canada's recognition of silver either as currency or as a base for currency.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I followed the hon. gentleman with some care, and if the objects sought are as indicated it is not competent for a private member to introduce that legislation. It would impose a further charge upon the revenues of the country for the acquisition of silver to the extent of ·925 as against ·800.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) raises the question of order—

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): It might be allowed to stand for second reading, and the question be considered by Your Honour.

Mr. BENNETT: No, it is first reading. The motion might stand until Your Honour has opportunity to look into the point of order.

Motion stands.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice; for the Minister of Labour) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 79, to amend the Combines Investigation Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This is an amendment to the present law, and is really a transfer of the duties of the office from the minister, now the Minister of Labour, to a commission to be set up under another statute. The chief change is that where the word "minister" occurs the word " commission " is inserted.

[Mr. W. W. Kennedy.]

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (West Edmonton): Are there not some further provisions for strengthening the act?

Mr. GUTHRIE: There may be some slight amendments. There are other bills dealing with the matter, and this bill will not be proceeded with further until the other bill is brought to the house.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

REGULATION OF WHALING

On the order, government notices of motion:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): In order that all the members of the house may have opportunity to consider this resolution I shall not move it until Monday, as the Senate will not be sitting until Tuesday. We can deal with it Monday and it can then go to the other chamber.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Is this resolution concerning whales also directed against sharks?

Mr. BENNETT: I do not think it has any application to the hon. member for Témiscouata.

NATURALIZATION PAPERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): The hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) recently passed across the floor of the house to me three letters which had been sent out by the proper officials of the Department of the Secretary of State dealing with naturalization, asking why information had been required as to whether, in each case, the applicant had become established in Canada and was permanently employed.

The granting of naturalization by the Secretary of State is a matter entirely within his discretion and therefore inquiry has to be made to ascertain whether the applicant has properly entered Canada—"landed," as the term is—and as to his character and qualifications for naturalization. There are now pending in the department, owing I think to the imminence of a general election, some eight or nine thousands new applications, and it takes considerable time to make inquiry in each case. In respect of these three applicants, whose names I will not mention, each is a citizen of Jugoslavia, and each has been properly landed in Canada. But we have received frequent protests from one end of this country to the other against granting naturalization certificates to applicants who