

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: This Bill is similar to the one I introduced last year. It is for the purpose of bringing the boats on our inland waters and in our coastwise trade under the control of the Railway Commission in the matter of rates, tolls, tariff agreements and arrangements, time of call, duration of stay, and so forth. The last clause of the Bill I am introducing seeks to amend clause 358 of the Consolidated Railway Act in order that it may harmonize with the principles of this Bill, which is for the purpose of amending clause 33 of the Consolidated Railway Act.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of the motion of Mr. Hume Cronyn for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment of the Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King thereto, resumed from Thursday, March 4.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it is a very sincere pleasure to be able to congratulate the Government upon the excellence of their choice of the mover of the address (Mr. Cronyn) and the seconder (Mr. McGregor) in this debate. They chose two splendid specimens of different kinds of stalwart Canadian manhood. I did not agree with all they said, but it is all the greater pleasure to one to congratulate both of these gentlemen on the ability, the modesty, and the good taste with which they said what they had to say.

The speech from the Throne gives quite proper prominence to the League of Nations, and to the establishment of an international labour office. It may be truthfully said, I think, that the very endeavour to establish a League of Nations sounds for the first time the note of internationalism in human affairs, and I am sure there is no one in this House who does not re-echo in the shape of a prayer the sentiment of the speech from the Throne which expresses the hope that these arrangements will insure to us the blessings of continual peace. Lord Robert Cecil, who takes a great interest in the League of Nations in Great Britain has foreshadowed what must have occurred to large numbers of thoughtful people at any rate on this question, that if the League of Nations grows into a mature, stable, and effective organization there would naturally

follow in time a very large measure of disarmament. I refer to that to point out that that consideration should have an important bearing upon Canadian policy. I think that due weight given to that consideration would help to put a restraining hand upon the activities or possible activities of the First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Ballantyne) and the Minister of Militia and Defence. I say no more on that subject, but point the obvious moral to be drawn from this particular paragraph of the address and the important matter it brings before this House and the country.

The address repeats what I remember specially the leader of the House has brought before the Canadian people in various public meetings which he has addressed in recent times. May I, Sir, in mentioning my right hon. friend, offer to him and to the Parliament and country my very hearty congratulations on the fact that accident has placed so great a parliamentary veteran (Rt. Hon. Sir George Foster) in the position he at present occupies at the time when we are entering our new parliamentary home. I listened, as I am sure every hon. member in the House did, with the greatest pleasure and admiration, to the lengthy speech which he delivered the other evening with all his old-time vivacity and virility. Long may he be spared to grace the halls of Parliament and to teach the "young ideas" how to shoot.

I draw in my mind, Sir, a very clear distinction between the duty of individual economy and the duty of national economy, and I am not so sure that we cannot carry individual economy too far. As a small producer of beef, for example, I should conceive it a great misfortune to myself, and probably to others, if there were too much economy displayed in the eating of good roast beef and good steak; and the same thought occurs to me in connection with other lines of production. I wish some speaker on the Government side of the House would make it clear to the people just whom they expect to economize, and in what. They are not thinking of the veterans, I should think. The veterans did not have too much to spend when they were in the line, and I have it on good authority that some of them in our cities this winter have barely had enough to eat. This has arisen from a perfectly natural cause. The best jobs in the early period of reconstruction were held by men who did not avail themselves of the glorious privilege of going over the top, and the veterans, in too many cases, had to come home and take jobs in