

Service Commission were then before the courts for consideration. I understand that the case which is now pending in the courts at Ottawa will probably be determined within the next few days. In view of that fact, unless members are very anxious to proceed with this discussion to-day, I should prefer to move the adjournment of the debate and in the meantime to suggest on behalf of the government that a committee representing all parties in this house might be appointed to take into consideration this and other resolutions and bills affecting the Civil Service Commission. Such resolutions and bills might be referred to that committee for an independent investigation and report thereon to the house. The matter is perhaps not one with respect to which the government should present a policy to the house. It affects all parties in the house and therefore it might be advantageous if the whole matter were referred to a select committee. In order that this suggestion may be considered by the leaders of the various parties and their associates, I now beg leave to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY MOVED BY MR. CHARLES BOURGEOIS AND SECONDED BY MR. J. H. STITT

The house resumed from Monday, February 8, consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Before I begin to discuss the motion before the house may I take the opportunity of congratulating the hon. member for Three Rivers-St. Maurice (Mr. Bourgeois) upon his speech in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It is sometimes quite an ordeal for old members of this house to debate such an important question and I am sure it must be doubly so for a new member like my hon. friend. However, he discharged his duties quite well indeed, and as I do not understand the French language to any great extent I shall take the first opportunity of reading his address when it is translated into English. May I also congratulate my good friend from Selkirk (Mr. Stitt) who seconded the motion. My good friend gave the house descriptions of many beautiful bits of scenery in his constituency and also informed us of the many excellent qualities of soil and the advantages in the way of location with which that constituency

[Mr. Cahan.]

is favoured. He rightly informed the house that that part of Manitoba was the first section of western Canada to produce No. 1 hard wheat, and he told us that his people had in their midst some splendid butter makers who were so well versed in the art of making butter as to be capable of winning very valuable prizes. When the hon. member was telling us about the capabilities of the butter makers in his constituency he must surely have forgotten the prices which those butter makers now receive for the excellent quality of butter which can win prizes at various fairs throughout the country. Of course, it is a slippery question and I am not going to pursue the subject any further at the present time.

Yesterday we had the privilege of listening to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). These gentlemen engaged in a very wordy debate and it is not my purpose to intervene between them in this pastime. May I, however, make one reference to a statement which came from the leader of the opposition yesterday afternoon? In my opinion this was the most important statement which he made and it merits some attention. In his address he stated that the tariff was the most important question in Canada. I will admit that the tariff is an important question in every country including Canada but I submit that at the present time it is not the most important question in Canada. We have many other problems more important by far than the tariff. In so far as the primary producers are concerned the tariff is always important, but there are other questions which are much more important.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend, but I think I said that I regarded unemployment to be the most important question, and that the tariff was one of the important factors affecting the present situation.

Mr. GARDINER: I accept my right hon. friend's explanation. I was quoting from my notes and I shall be glad to look them up and see whether I am right or wrong.

Let us look at the world and see how important tariffs are. Great Britain until recently has been a free trading country but she has suffered from unemployment just as much as any other country. The United States has had the highest tariff in the world and yet she has suffered from unemployment just as has Great Britain, a free trade country. This shows conclusively that while tariffs may