

FULTON DIVORCE

PETITION WITHDRAWN

Hon. Mr. Aseltine presented and moved concurrence in the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Divorce, as follows:

1. With respect to the petition of Pearl Mary Fulton, of the city of Montreal, in the province of Quebec, for an act to dissolve her marriage with George Devlin Fulton, of the city of Verdun, in the said province.

2. Application having been made for leave to withdraw the petition, the committee recommend that leave be granted accordingly, and that the reduced parliamentary fees paid under Rule 140 be refunded to the petitioner less printing and translation costs.

The motion was agreed to.

EXCHEQUER COURT BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Copp (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) moved the third reading of Bill B, an Act to amend the Exchequer Court Act.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. Copp (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) moved the third reading of Bill C, an Act to amend the Department of Justice Act.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

On the Order:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Godbout, seconded by Hon. Mr. Petten, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. Copp: Honourable senators, I should like to make a brief explanation. It will be noticed that when this Order was before the house a few days ago, the adjournment of the debate was moved by the leader of the government, (Hon. Mr. Robertson). He is unavoidably absent this evening but is desirous that the debate should not be postponed on that account. I believe the senator from Medicine Hat (Hon. Mr. Gershaw) is prepared to go on with the debate this evening, and that other members also wish to participate. In the circumstances I would ask that the leader be given an opportunity to speak in the debate at a later date.

The debate was resumed (from Wednesday, September 21):

Hon. F. W. Gershaw: Honourable senators, in rising to take a brief part in this debate, I wish first of all to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Godbout) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Petten) of the Address on the subject matter of their speeches and the manner in which they delivered them.

I should also like to pay my respects to you, Mr. Speaker, for the splendid work that you have done in the Senate in years gone by, and to congratulate you upon your attainment of the high position which you now occupy.

In a very humble way I should also like to extend my sincere welcome to the new members of the Senate. They have taken on important responsibilities, but they will find here an atmosphere of good will and friendliness, and they will have the opportunity of making a great contribution to the welfare of Canada.

I wish to take advantage of the latitude which the house graciously allows in this debate to speak of local crop conditions that I have seen this year, and have often seen in years gone by. Southern Alberta, the district whence I come, is in the heart of what is called the Palliser triangle. Nearly a hundred years ago Captain Palliser, who was employed by the British Government to examine and report on the whole district, outlined an area, roughly triangular in shape, which he considered was unfit for agricultural purposes. Fortunately, his prediction has not proved to be altogether accurate, for during intervening years parts of that area have produced great wealth, though in the heart of the district there is short-grass country in which crop failures are a common occurrence. Back in 1874 the Northwest Mounted Police made their great pilgrimage through what was then that lone land, and when travelling through southern Alberta their livestock suffered greatly from lack of water. Colonel Walker, one of the originals of that great force, said he had never seen a country where there were so many dust storms and where pasture was so completely non-existent.

However, there were good years, and people flocked into that country with high hopes. They did not reap the golden harvests they had hoped for, because what has been called "the withering hand of drought" brought disappointment and often despair. The federal government has some responsibility for drought control, because in the early days of this century, from 1908 to 1913, the government's homestead and pre-emption policy brought the open range days to an end and made the land available for settlement. It was because of that action that land hungry people crowded into the country. I recall seeing in those years long lines of men and