

CANADA EVIDENCE ACT

ACCEPTANCE OF AFFIDAVITS IN LIEU OF ORAL EVIDENCE IN CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 6, to amend the Canada Evidence Act.

He said: By a statute of 1938 amendments were made to the Canada Evidence Act having for their purpose the facilitating of evidence in certain matters; it was provided that an affidavit should be accepted as evidence without the necessity of hearing certain witnesses who might live a very long distance from the court. This amendment is for the purpose of making the first amendment easier of application, inasmuch as it will not be necessary to prove the official character of the person making the affidavit unless it is challenged.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADA GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT

CORRECTION OF INACCURACIES IN CHAPTER 36 OF STATUTES OF 1939

Hon. JAMES A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 7, to amend the Canada Grain Act.

He said: The purpose of this bill is to correct three inaccuracies that appear in the amending act of 1939.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What are they?

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): An explanation will be given on the second reading.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE A. TOUCHE AND COMPANY AS AUDITORS

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 8, respecting the appointment of auditors for national railways.

He said: This is the usual bill introduced annually to provide for the appointment of auditors for Canadian National Railways.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The same auditors?

Mr. HOWE: The same as those of last year.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[Mr. Rogers.]

BEAUHARNOIS POWER COMPANY

PROPOSED APPROVAL FOR DIVERSION OF ADDITIONAL 30,000 CUBIC SECOND FEET

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 9, respecting the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Company.

He said: By chapter 49 of the statutes of Canada, 1931, the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Company were granted the privilege of diverting 53,000 cubic second feet of the flow of the St. Lawrence for power purposes. The object of this bill is to increase that diversion by 30,000 cubic second feet.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

JOINT USE OF CERTAIN TRACKS AND TERMINALS FOR PURPOSES OF NEW ENTRANCE INTO VANCOUVER

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 10, to ratify and confirm a certain agreement respecting the joint use by Canadian National Railways of certain tracks and premises of the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company, at Vancouver, in the province of British Columbia.

He said: The purpose of this bill is to ratify an agreement with Canadian National Railways for running rights over certain tracks and premises of the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company at Vancouver in order to give the Canadian National Railways an entrance into Vancouver. This object could be approved by the board of transport commissioners to be operative for a period of not more than twenty-one years, but as the agreement is in perpetuity it is necessary to apply for the approval of parliament.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

YUKON ACT AMENDMENT

VALIDATION OF YUKON FUR EXPORT TAX ORDINANCE ACT ASSENTED TO MAY 20, 1919

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 11, to amend the Yukon Act.

He said: As far back as 1919 power was conferred upon the Yukon territorial council enabling them to provide for a tax on raw fur exported from the Yukon. A doubt has arisen, curiously enough at this late date, as to the precise powers which the territorial

TRANSPORT ACT AMENDMENT

CONTROL OF TRANSPORT BY AIR, HIGHWAY, WATER OR RAILWAY

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 14, to amend the Transport Act.

He said: This bill provides for several amendments to the Transport Act having to do with the sections relating to carriage by water and by air. The amendments are put forward at the suggestion of the board of transport commissioners. The bill also has two new sections, one providing for the regulation of motor vehicles operated within dominion government parks, and the other having to do with the regulation of motor vehicles operated across an international boundary.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

WHEAT

BREAK ON WINNIPEG FUTURES MARKET—PEGGING OF PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon). In view of the drastic decline which has taken place in the price of wheat on the Winnipeg exchange, and the report in this morning's press that the government has taken action pegging the price, would the minister care to make a statement to the house?

Hon. JAMES A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I anticipated the question just asked by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, (Mr. Perley) and in reply I wish to make the following statement:

Last Saturday morning, May 18, after consultations between the wheat committee of the cabinet and the Canadian wheat board, the Canadian wheat board addressed the following communication to the Winnipeg grain exchange:

We have been asked to advise you that the government requests that the Winnipeg grain exchange peg the wheat futures market as at the close of Friday, May 17. This action is taken as a temporary measure, pending full discussion with the government.

Upon receipt of this communication the Winnipeg grain exchange promptly issued the following statement:

At the request of the government the council has decided that the prices in wheat futures will be pegged as a minimum at the prices ruling at the close of the market on Friday, May 17, 1940, namely: May 70½, July 71½, October 73½, to become effective at the close

council had to impose such a tax. This bill is intended to make it clear beyond any question of doubt that they have the power, and also to confirm whatever actions they have taken in the past under that power.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT

JURISDICTION OF PROVINCIAL COURTS—CARE OF INSANE PERSONS

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 12, to amend the Northwest Territories Act.

He said: Under the Northwest Territories Act as it stands at present the superior courts of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have jurisdiction in civil matters with respect to persons and property in that part of the Northwest Territories which lies west of the 80th meridian. This bill confers similar powers on the Ontario superior courts to deal with matters of the same sort east of the 80th meridian in the Northwest Territories. It also makes express provision conferring surrogate powers upon the provincial courts in the territories adjacent to the provinces. Under the Northwest Territories Act as it now stands the minister is authorized to make arrangements with the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba for the care of insane persons. Similar powers do not exist in the provinces further west, and this amending bill will confer such powers.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT

VARIATION OF PROVISION RESPECTING WEIGHTS OF PACKAGE CHEESE

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 13, to amend the Dairy Industry Act.

He said: The law now provides that products under the Dairy Industry Act shall be put up in parcels of pounds or fractions thereof. This has made it difficult for those who have been processing cheese to use the whole of cheeses which are round in form. The bill proposes so to amend the act as to make it possible to dispose of the residue of such cheeses.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.