

Mr. GARIEPY: Mr. Speaker, the object of this bill is to amend the Interpretation Act so as to make the eleventh day of December in each year a statutory holiday. On December 11, 1931, what is commonly called the statute of Westminster was assented to, confirming the present status of the Dominion of Canada. It is fit and proper to celebrate this anniversary so as to impress upon the people of this country its extraordinary consequence to Canada.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

RAILWAY ACT

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT IN QUEBEC PROVINCE RESPECTING EMPLOYEES OF RAILWAY AND TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

Mr. WILFRID LACROIX (Quebec-Montmorency) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3, to amend the Railway Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. LACROIX (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, the effect of this amendment would be to allow the Board of Transport Commissioners to make orders and regulations to provide that all employees of railway and telegraph companies coming within its jurisdiction shall have the requisite knowledge of the French language in the province of Quebec to enable them properly to perform their duties and to be understood by and understand the majority of the persons with whom they are required to do business.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

POST OFFICE ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT THE SENDING THROUGH MAILS OF COMMUNISTIC LITERATURE

Mr. WILFRID LACROIX (Quebec-Montmorency) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 4, to amend the Post Office Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. LACROIX (Quebec-Montmorency): The purpose of the amendment is to enlarge the powers of the Postmaster General as to the making of regulations. At present the Postmaster General may prohibit the sending of obscene or immoral publications. It is intended in this bill that he should also have the power to prohibit and prevent sending of communistic literature.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

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CRIMINAL CODE

PROVISION AGAINST REFUSAL TO EMPLOY OR DISMISSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN TRADE UNIONS

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, to amend the criminal code.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: This is the same as Bill No. 4 of last year. The purpose of the bill is to prevent employers from refusing to employ, or from dismissing employees, or conspiring with others therefor, for the reason that they are members of a trade union.

As it is lawful for workmen or employees to form themselves into trade unions and to bargain collectively, it should, as a matter of public policy, be unlawful for employers to seek by overt acts or intimidation, threats or conspiracy to prevent them from belonging to such trade unions.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MODERNIZATION OF ELEVATOR EQUIPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. E. LENNARD (Wentworth): I should like to call the attention of the government to the antiquated elevators we have in this building. It is about time they were replaced with safer and more modern equipment.

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Public Works): I shall have the hon. gentleman's observations taken into consideration, but I wish to have the benefit of his information on the subject.

LIGHTING OF COMMONS CHAMBER

Mr. NORMAN J. M. LOCKHART (Lincoln): May I again gently refer to the shadows that fall across these back seats? Last year it was pointed out to the government that there was considerable trouble in this regard. Some improvement has been effected, but I am wondering whether by changing bulbs or by some other means we can do away with these shadows.

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Public Works): I make the same answer as I made to the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Lennard). Some changes have been made in connection with the lighting on the