

## ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA WATER POWER BILL

### FIRST READING

Bill 311, an Act respecting Water Power in the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.—Right Hon. Mr. Graham.

## PENITENTIARIES SERVICE—WARDEN COOPER

### REQUEST FOR RETURN

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Honourable gentlemen, may I ask the right honourable gentleman who leads the House if he will try to obtain for me the return for which I moved last Wednesday, and which is supposed to have some connection with the inquiry that has just been allowed to stand?

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I will call the attention of the Minister of Justice to the request of my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: I might say that it is a very short return; it will not be more than two or three pages at the most.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: When I was in the Government I always found difficulty in getting returns from the Justice Department. The handling of that Department is the most delicate part of the administration. Very frequently it is not in the interest even of the person whose trouble is being discussed that such a return be brought down, but I will call the attention of the Minister to my honourable friend's request.

## DIVORCE BILLS

### THIRD READINGS

Bill C8, an Act for the relief of Barbara Elise Sewell de la Penotiere.

Bill D8, an Act for the relief of Oliver Milton Martin.

Bill E8, an Act for the relief of Catherine McRae Beattie McRae.

Bill F8, an Act for the relief of Mary Jane Teeson.

Bill G8, an Act for the relief of Sam Gladstone.

Bill H8, an Act for the relief of Charles Smolkin.

## ELECTRICITY AND FLUID EXPORTATION BILL

### FURTHER CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

The Senate again went into Committee on Bill 15, an Act to amend the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act (Exportation of Electric Power).—Hon. Mr. Tanner.

Hon. Mr. Copp in the Chair.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

On section 1—export of power:

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Honourable gentlemen, this Bill comes before the Committee now on account of an amendment which I moved some time ago, the effect of which was to bring all licenses or all permits for export of electric power under the control of Parliament in 1935. My object in presenting the amendment was to have somebody explain the reason why the proposed change in the Act was sought. I think the first Bill that ever came before this Parliament for incorporating a company for the purpose of producing power and connecting its wires with wires across the Niagara river was introduced in 1887. There was a company then incorporated to develop power at Niagara Falls. In 1891 it came before Parliament again and asked for an extension of six years within which to perform or terminate its work. In 1900 it again came before Parliament requesting a further extension of time, for another six years, which would bring it to the year 1906. In 1906, after those Bills in connection with the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls had repeatedly come before Parliament, a Bill was presented by Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, then Minister of Justice, for the purpose of vesting in the Governor in Council the right to issue licenses. The Bill was thoroughly discussed, but it was not passed, because of the contention that it was important to consult with the Ontario authorities. Sir James Whitney, then Premier of Ontario, was consulted and in the following Session, in 1907, the same Bill was presented by the then Minister of Justice, the honourable gentleman who is my right-hand neighbour (Hon. Sir Allen Aylesworth). At that time there was a full discussion, and the suggestions of the Premier of Ontario were given due consideration. The Bill went before Committee, where it was further discussed. When it came before the House of Commons for third reading, the then Leader of the Opposition, Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, moved an amendment, the purpose of which was to transfer to the Railway Commission the power to issue licenses for the export of electricity.

Let me say en passant that the principle of exporting power by license was then universally admitted, but various amendments were proposed bearing more on the subject of who should exercise the authority. The wisdom of leaving to the Governor in Council any discretion as to the issue of licenses for the export of power was challenged, on the ground, as it was then put by Sir Robert Borden, that the Governor in Council was a transient and partisan body and there was danger that all