

House of Commons Debates

THIRD SESSION—NINTH PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, September 29, 1903.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Eleven o'clock.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 259) to amend the North-west Territories Act.

Mr. SPROULE. Explain.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories, as at present constituted, consists of four puisne judges and one judge of the Supreme Court. The intention is now to have a court constituted with five puisne judges and a chief justice. The second section of the Bill provides for cases reserved for consideration by the full court. As the law now stands a judge reserving a point for the consideration of the full court cannot be a member of the court unless his presence is necessary to constitute a quorum. The intention is that when a point is reserved in a criminal case the judge sitting at the trial in the criminal case who reserved the point may form part of the court before which the reserved case is taken. I may say that the last amendment is suggested by the judges of the Supreme Court.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Is there any demand from the bar or the people of the

North-west Territories for an additional judge?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Where is he to be stationed or to reside?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. There is an almost unanimous request from the bar of the North-west Territories for the appointment of this additional judge, and I may say that it is supported by the Attorney General of the North-west Territories. No provision is made for residence at the present time. There will necessarily have to be a division made so as to make provision for the district in which Macleod is situated, but I am not sure at the present time where the residence will be.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

DISTURBANCE AT SAULT STE. MARIE.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to draw the attention of the House and of the country to a statement of the conditions as they seem to exist at Sault Ste. Marie, in the Province of Ontario. I notice in the morning paper the following telegram:

Toronto, Sept. 29, 1.00 a.m.—Col. Buchan commanding the military district in which Sault Ste. Marie is situated, has just received an urgent telegram requesting the immediate despatch of troops to the Soo.