

UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PAPERS
TORONTO SUBURBAN RAILWAY

Mr. CHURCH:

For a copy of all orders in council, letters, agreements, telegrams, and other correspondence relating to the sale of the Toronto Suburban Railway or any part thereof by the government of Canada or the Canadian National Railways to the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario or the city of Toronto.

THE SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): In view of the fact that the House, without a division, approved of the principle of transferable votes in single-member constituencies, is it the intention of the government to bring in a bill during the present session to carry that idea into effect?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I spoke of this matter the other day but I am afraid my hon. friend was not in the House at the time. I asked the chief electoral officer of the government to prepare an amendment to the Elections Act to meet what my hon. friend has in mind. I have received his report; I find it will involve the amending of a number of sections of the act as it stands. It is not the simple matter which my hon. friend imagines it is, of a clause or two; it will necessitate amending the existing act in many particulars. The government is not desirous of adding to the legislative programme of the present session by bringing the Elections Act into the House for purposes of amendment if no special immediate need for this appears on the surface. Under the circumstances, our present intention is to allow any amendments to the act to remain over until next session.

MR. DUNCAN MARSHALL

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. HARRIS: I would call the attention of the government to an article appearing in the Toronto Daily Star of Monday, April the 23rd, under the caption "Eager crowds watch emigrants depart." The article says in part:

Duncan Marshall, Chief of the Colonization department, came to see the party off.

The article declares also that a large number of people who purposed coming to this country changed their minds at the last moment. I might ask the government whether Mr. Duncan Marshall was on business of the department at Stornoway or has he been transferred to the Colonization department? When

was such transfer made? Or is this a case where a disappointed politician is receiving just a little joy ride to Stornoway?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is the first intimation I have had of any transfer of the kind.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS REPORT

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Does the government intend to have copies of the interim report of the special committee to inquire into Agricultural Conditions printed and placed in the hands of hon. members? This is a very important report and hon. members should have an opportunity of studying it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is printed in the Votes and Proceedings.

PRIVILEGE—MR. GOOD

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. W. C. GOOD (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. On the 1st of March my veracity was inferentially questioned by the Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin) who, in reference to myself spoke these words:

He quoted the Hon. Mr. Raney as his main authority, I would say to justify his resolution. I am not sure that I shall surprise the hon. member for Brant, but I may tell him this, that the Hon. Mr. Raney has never asked for any such amendment as the amendment my hon. friend now proposes to this House.

And a little further on:

Mr. Raney never asked that we should repeal section 2 of article 235 as the hon. member for Brant now proposes.

I had not at that time the definite information which would enable me to give a categorical denial of that unfair charge, but I wrote to Mr. Raney immediately afterwards—on the 3rd March. Unfortunately, owing to his illness, I did not secure permission from him to use his letter until a short time ago. I wish to read a paragraph of Mr. Raney's letter to me in reply, in which he says:

You stated the situation very fairly in your speech winding up the debate—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I would remind the hon. member that under the rules it is not permissible to read a letter referring to the current debates of this House.

Mr. GOOD: Mr. Speaker, all I have to say is that what I had intended to place on record emphatically and distinctly confirms my statement and proves beyond a shadow of doubt that I was speaking the truth when I stated Mr. Raney's position.