

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Monday, March 12, 1923

The House met at three o'clock.

RETURNS—ORDERS IN COUNCIL

Mr. MEIGHEN: In connection with the returns brought down in answer to motions for papers, I would suggest to the government that instead of referring to an order in council by number, the subject matter be given, which I think has been the usual practice. Then hon. members will know in answer to whose motion the return is made.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. HOEY: I should like to ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the government to bring down and submit to the House at this session amendments to the Dominion Elections Act. I understand that certain amendments have been suggested by the Chief Electoral Officer, and there is also the matter of the single transferable vote endorsed by this House some weeks ago.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In this matter the government will wait to see what further suggestions may be made to the House before reaching a decision. There is a committee on redistribution, which will have to report to the House. Up to the present time it has not been thought advisable to bring in any amendments, but during the course of the session if it should seem to be advisable the matter will be taken under consideration.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS — COAL SUPPLY

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am informed that the Canadian National Railways are refusing to take the run of the mine coal from any small companies in Maccan and River Hebert districts and that this means that some eight hundred men are thrown out of work, and these districts are being ruined. Has the government any information with regard to the withdrawal of orders from these districts?

Mr. GRAHAM: The matter is under consideration at the present time. Time may be given in order to install certain screens that will help out the difficulty. That matter is now being considered by the Vice President.

PRIVATE BILLS

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 5, respecting certain patents of Charles A Channell.—Mr. German.

Bill No. 19, respecting certain patents of Albert Manvers.—Mr. Jacobs.

Bill No. 25, respecting a certain patent of Arthur R. Wilfley.—Mr. Chevrier.

Bill No. 27.—respecting a patent of Hans M. Olsen and Esther Maud Butcher.—Sir Henry Drayton.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 14, to incorporate La Banque Rurale.—Mr. Parent.

Bill No. 18, respecting the Dominion Fire Insurance Company.—Mr. Ryckman.

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES ARTISANS CANADIENS FRANÇAIS

On motion of Mr. Hanson the House went into committee on Bill No. 26, to amend the act incorporating "La Société des Artisans Canadiens Français."—Mr. Seguin.—Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

On Section 4—General Convention.

Mr. CALDWELL: I cannot help thinking we are passing these sections without very much consideration. For example, I notice that in this section it is proposed to strike out the words "a majority of." I think this should be explained.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: An increase of protection is it not?

Mr. CALDWELL: We want to be sure of that.

Mr. HANSON: This bill was before the Banking and Commerce committee and all the sections were carefully considered. I can