

D29309

MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT TO MOBILIZE
AND CONTROL RESOURCES, MUNITIONS AND
ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved that the house go into committee at the present sitting to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish a Department of Munitions and Supply with authority, to mobilize the resources of the nation for the production of munitions and essential supplies and to take such action as may be necessary therefor, to secure an adequate supply of commodities of all kinds necessary or desirable for the prosecution of the war, to ensure an adequate allotment of such supplies among such agencies as may require the same, and to control the making of contracts in connection with expenditures therefor; to provide for the employment of officers, clerks and servants necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the department; and to authorize the payment of certain expenditures and the making of certain grants in connection with the work of the department.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the committee if it would permit the resolution to pass so that we may have the debate on the bill. The purpose of introducing the resolution at this stage is that of permitting the house to have the bill before it at as early a moment as possible. Hon. members would then have an opportunity of acquainting themselves with its provisions. I would suggest that to avoid unnecessary repetition the resolution might be carried, and the bill introduced and immediately distributed, following which we could proceed, in a moment or two, with the budget resolutions.

Mr. MANION: Carried.

Mr. POULIOT: Will the defence purchasing board continue to operate after the establishment of the Department of Munitions and Supply?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall have a full statement to make with respect to the matter at a later time.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mackenzie King thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, respecting the Department of Munitions and Supply.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[Mr. Manion.]

Mr. SPEAKER: When shall said bill be read a second time?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This day.

QUESTION DE PRIVILÈGE—
M. LACOMBEDÉCLARATION DE L'HONORABLE JUGE EN CHEF
GREENSHIELDS

A l'appel de l'ordre du jour.

M. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Deux-Montagnes): Monsieur l'Orateur, avant l'appel de l'ordre du jour, je désire soulever une question de privilège. Je viens de prendre connaissance d'une déclaration de l'honorable R. A. E. Greenshields, juge en chef de la Cour supérieure pour le district de Montréal, qui est relatée dans le quotidien *The Ottawa Journal*, numéro du 12 septembre 1939, et qui se lit comme suit:

Quebec Chief Justice Assails Lawyers
Refusing to Serve

Montreal, September 11.—Hon. R. A. E. Greenshields, seventy-eight-year-old Chief Justice of the Superior Court, condemned to-day what he described as "ill-judged sentiments" expressed by certain members of the provincial bar, who, he said, had "refused to serve their king in an hour of dire need."

The Chief Justice, opening the fall sessions of the superior court, did not identify the men he criticized, but it was believed he referred to lawyers who had urged from public platform that Canada take no part in the war.

"I would recall to these gentlemen that when they were admitted as members of the profession of law—"

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): What is the question of privilege? The Chief Justice did not speak about members of parliament; he spoke about members of the bar.

M. LACOMBE: La question de privilège est celle-ci, monsieur l'Orateur: En ma qualité de représentant de la circonscription électorale de Laval-Deux-Montagnes, je ne suis pas seulement membre du Parlement, mais je suis aussi membre du barreau de la province de Québec. C'est comme député et membre du barreau de la province de Québec que je soulève cette question de privilège.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Order.

M. le PRÉSIDENT: Je suis d'opinion que la question soulevée par l'honorable député n'est pas conforme au règlement.

M. LACOMBE: Monsieur l'Orateur, dois-je comprendre que la décision que vous avez rendue m'empêche de continuer la lecture de la nouvelle parue dans *The Ottawa Journal*?

M. le PRÉSIDENT: J'ai décidé qu'il n'y avait pas là de question de privilège.