

*Unopposed Motions*

tion as well as to the two others which follow. It is not in the public interest to give the names for which my hon. friend is asking. As I said the other day, the administration of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act is a very difficult task, and it would make the work of the police more arduous to publish the information asked for. I repeat that I have to object to the passing of these resolutions.

Mr. MARTELL: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Is the resolution dropped?

Mr. STEVENS: I have no desire to drop these resolutions. If the government refuses to allow them to pass they must take the responsibility.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the resolution dropped or does it stand?

Mr. STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, may I speak to the point of order? The point I raise is this: A motion of this kind is non-debatable but if the government object to it they must take the responsibility of rejecting the motion. I am not asking the privilege of debating the motion, I am merely presenting it for the consideration of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried:

Some hon. MEMBERS: Lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: Lost on division.

OPIUM AND NARCOTIC DRUG ACT—REPORT OF COMMANDANT OF R.C.M.P.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS:

For a copy of the report of the officer commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, dated about January 4th, 1922, to the Minister of Justice or the Department of Justice, alleging that certain individuals, including customs officers, were implicated in the smuggling of drugs, together with copy of all correspondence in connection therewith.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: I have to offer the same objection to this resolution. The information contained in this report by an officer of the mounted police to the Minister of Justice is of a very confidential nature, and it would be against the public interest to make it public.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Lost on division.

[Mr. Lapointe.]

OPIUM AND NARCOTIC DRUG ACT—VIOLATIONS

Hon. Mr. STEVENS:

For a copy of all reports received from the officer commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Vancouver, regarding the violation of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, during the years 1920 to 1924, inclusive.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: My reason for objecting to this resolution is that in many cases such reports contain the names of persons who are only suspects and, perhaps it is found out afterwards that they may not be guilty. It would not be fair to make such reports public. On the other hand, when a person is subsequently found guilty of infraction of the act, the making public of the information which led to the apprehension of the guilty person would render the subsequent work of the police officers more difficult. It is against the public interest to disclose such reports.

Mr. STEVENS: I would not ask for that class of information. That could easily be deleted from the report. It is the general report which is asked for in this particular motion.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It is "a copy of all reports received from the officer commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Vancouver, regarding the violation of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act."

Mr. STEVENS: The minister could delete from the report what he regards as against the public interest to disclose.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Perhaps my hon. friend will allow his resolution to stand and we may find a solution possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: The resolution stands.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AND MERCHANT MARINE

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. MEIGHEN: I should like to ask the Minister of Railways if he has yet received the annual report for 1923 of the Canadian National Railways, and the Canadian Government Merchant Marine?

Mr. GRAHAM: The report of the merchant marine is not yet to hand. An advance copy of the railway report is at hand. I hope in a few days to lay on the Table a copy for each member of the House.