

With the exception of that single date the house met frequently in January, and when in February, it was called at an early date. I am not referring to the late date at which parliament was called this year, but rather to what is desirable as regards the coming year. My right hon. friend even with the house meeting in January, will have five or six months without any session of parliament, and I again express the hope that he will find it possible to call parliament in the month of January, if indeed necessity does not compel him to call parliament sooner.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY

TEST SHIPMENTS OF GRAIN THROUGH CHURCHILL THIS SEASON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): Mr. Speaker, as this will be the last opportunity, I would like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) if satisfactory arrangements have been made for the volume of wheat to make a test shipment from Churchill through the bay.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, I have received no communication from anyone wanting to make a shipment of wheat from Churchill except that to which I have referred, a telegram from the On-to-the-Bay Association which stated that they had control of 150,000 bushels of wheat, which would make about half a cargo. Speaking for the government, I may say that we are endeavouring and will continue to endeavour within the next two or three days—it must be done immediately—to arrange this matter. No help that I know of has been received from anyone in the western provinces, and it should be from that part of the country that the cargoes should come.

MINISTER OF LABOUR

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, at the outset of the session the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) indicated that the arrangement of having the Minister of Labour occupy a seat in the Senate was to be temporary and that his intention was to have the Minister of Labour occupy a seat in this House of Commons. May I ask my right hon. friend whether between now and next session he will endeavour so to readjust the portfolios or existing arrangements as to make possible the presence in this House of Com-

mons of whoever holds the portfolio of Minister of Labour. It must be wholly apparent that the most important question to-day in this country is the labour question, and it is of importance that hon. members of this house should have in this chamber the presence of whoever fills the office of Minister of Labour. Otherwise it will be quite impossible for us to discuss many all important matters or even to obtain information required with respect to labour matters in a manner most desirable in the public interest.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the onerous duties of the Minister of Labour have been discharged by the present incumbent of that office with such satisfaction to this country and such credit to himself and the government that at the moment I am not prepared to make any statement. It is desirable that this House of Commons should have control over many matters but during the time when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Prime Minister the Secretary of State was in the Senate for a considerable number of years. During that same period the Minister of Justice in the person of Sir Oliver Mowat was in the Senate, if my memory serves me aright. It is desirable that the Senate should in some sense be made a body of considerable importance in view of existing circumstances and also in view of the Senate reform that has been proceeding in the last ten years. Under those circumstances, I can give no assurance when the government will take such action as may be thought desirable in the public interest.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask another question in regard to a matter which affects the cabinet. May we assume from all that has been said that when parliament re-assembles the Prime Minister will have in his cabinet someone other than himself who will be performing the duties of Minister of Finance?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): That is probable.

FREIGHT RATES ON COAL

SUBVENTION ON SASKATCHEWAN COAL SHIPMENTS TO MANITOBA AND ONTARIO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ROBERT MCKENZIE (Assiniboia): Has the Prime Minister anything further to report with regard to the amount of the subvention that will be paid for the removal of