

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, April 1, 1919.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PAPER PRESENTED.

Paper showing the average number of men employed in the Dominion Police Force for the year 1918.—Hon. Mr. Meighen.

SENATE BILLS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill No. 43, for the relief of John Edwin Scott.—Mr. Ross.

Bill No. 44, for the relief of Claudius Henry Sherk.—Mr. Ross.

SOLDIERS SENTENCED TO PENAL SERVITUDE.

On the Orders of the Day.

Hon. CHARLES MURPHY (Russell): For the purpose of asking a question, may I direct the attention of the Acting Prime Minister to the following cable despatch which appeared in yesterday's Montreal Star:

London, March 31. (Canadian Press Dispatch from Reuter's Ltd.) The new Army Bill provides that members of the Imperial Forces enlisted in the Dominion and sentenced to penal servitude need not serve their sentence in the United Kingdom as hitherto provided in all soldiers' cases, but in the Dominions in which they were enlisted.

Above that despatch the Montreal Star places the sarcastic heading, "Thanks for the honour." May I inquire if the Government is in a position to explain to the House if this despatch means that a number of criminals are to be dumped into this country to be maintained during the rest of their lives at the cost of the taxpayers of Canada, or if this is to be taken as a significant hint of Canada's new status in the Imperial War Cabinet and the Cabinet of Governments.

Sir THOMAS WHITE (Acting Prime Minister): I have not seen the article, and I have no official information on the subject referred to.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill No. 10, to amend the Dominion Lands Surveys Act.—Hon. Mr. Meighen.

Bill No. 29, to amend the Railway Act (Aid for Railway Crossings).—Hon. Mr. Reid.

Bill No. 30, to amend an Act to provide compensation where employees of His Majesty are killed or suffer injuries while performing their duties.—Hon. Mr. Reid.

ADVANCES FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEED GRAIN.

On motion of Hon. Arthur Meighen (Minister of the Interior), Bill No. 24, respecting advances for the purchase of seed grain, was read the second time, and the House went into Committee thereon.—Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

On section 3—minister may guarantee repayment of advances.

Mr. MURPHY: Are these agreements uniform or may they vary in certain cases, and, if so, in what respect?

Mr. MEIGHEN: So far just one agreement has been made by me with the Bankers' Association on behalf of all the banks. It would never in my opinion be justifiable to make an agreement with one bank more favourable than with another.

Mr. BUREAU: Does the section mean that there will be a discrepancy of 2 per cent between the interest paid by the Government and the interest paid by the entrant.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No. The bank in making a loan to a farmer cannot charge over 7 per cent. If the bank fails to collect and calls upon the Government to pay, the Government is only bound to pay 5 per cent.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—commission on collections.

Mr. BUREAU: A commission of 1 per cent on the amount lent and 7 per cent interest would make 8 per cent.