

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, April 17, 1934

The house met at three o'clock.

HOSPITAL SWEEPSTAKES

Mr. J. A. FRASER (Cariboo) moved the first reading of Bill No. 56 (from the Senate) with respect to hospital sweepstakes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. FRASER: In view of the statement made yesterday by the Prime Minister I hardly think it is necessary to explain the bill. This is practically the same bill that was introduced in the house last session, and in view of the fact that we will have an opportunity for an extended discussion I do not think any further explanation is necessary at this time.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

FRASER RIVER BRIDGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the difficulty that is being experienced in crossing the Fraser river from New Westminster on down, and in view of the many reports that have been appearing in the press I should like to ask if the government are considering the advisability of constructing a bridge across the Fraser river under the public works program.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): My recollection is that the matter has not been dealt with. Representations have been made to the government with respect to charters held by individuals for bridges across the Fraser river, and since the advent into power of the new administration in British Columbia I believe certain legislation has been enacted dealing with the matter. Nothing has been received by the government of which I can think at the moment, however, other than the correspondence to which I have referred. I will look it up, and if there is anything I will let the hon. gentleman know.

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PRIVILEGE—MR. GUTHRIE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): I rise to a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Referring to Hansard for yesterday I find that when the vote on the amendment to the relief bill was taken my name is recorded as amongst those who voted against the amendment. A few minutes later, when the motion for the third reading of the bill was put, I certainly rose in my place and voted; my name was called by the assistant clerk, but my name is not recorded in the division list or in the list of pairs. I wish to have that error corrected, Mr. Speaker, since I certainly voted for the third reading of the bill.

May I say that I attach no blame at all to either the assistant clerk or the clerk in regard to this omission. When the vote was taken there was so much conversation, and perhaps disorder, in the chamber that though my name was called by the assistant clerk it might well be that the clerk did not hear it. I think my old friend from Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) will bear me out when I say that in our early experience in this house the taking of a division was rather a dignified and indeed one might say a solemn occasion. When the whips returned the doors were closed; no one was permitted to enter or leave the chamber, and on pain of a very severe rebuke no one was permitted to move about the house at all from one seat to another. Apart from the traditional applause that always greeted the votes of the leaders the proverbial silence was always maintained, so that you could hear a pin drop. I wish members of the house would assist in restoring that ancient dignity, so that at least we may have a properly recorded division in this house.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): I am very glad to have the opportunity of endorsing every word that has been uttered by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie), and I hope that in future the old traditions of parliament will be observed.