

Mr. CASTLEDEN: If you want to make your little speech go right ahead. I am talking of what I saw of unemployed people in this country.

Mr. PURDY: What did you do to provide work for those who were unemployed?

Mr. MacNICOL: Did you ever give a man a job?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I have found it hard enough to find a little job for myself. But I know that there were a million unemployed people in this country. This bill is just like trying to put a patch on an old worn-out tire. The bill provides that after the returned soldiers have forced their former employers to give them work, the employers must keep them in work for six months. What happens after that? We do not know. There is no question that the reestablishment and rehabilitation of the returning men is most important, but I want to tell the administration and those who are responsible for this bill that the working men and soldiers of Canada do not want a reestablishment of the old set-up that they had in Canada a few years ago. The right of every man to exchange his labour for a decent living must be recognized.

Mr. MacNICOL: I agree with that.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: But that right has not been recognized in the past, and unless we do something to see that the men shall have that opportunity—and this bill does not provide it—then I say we are failing to do our duty.

Section stands.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Crerar the house adjourned at six p.m.

Monday, March 9, 1942

The house met at three o'clock.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor General, reading as follows:

I have received with great pleasure the address that you have voted in reply to my speech at the opening of parliament, and thank you for it sincerely.

Athlone

Government House,
Ottawa,
March 5, 1942.

44561—72

PLEBISCITE ACT

PROCLAMATION FIXING APRIL 27 NEXT AS DAY OF VOTING

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Secretary of State): I desire to lay on the table of the house copy of order in council P.C. 1796, passed pursuant to the Plebiscite Act. Attached to it is a copy of the proclamation fixing the date for voting and the other provisions required by the act. I may say that the date for voting will be April 27 next.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT

AMENDMENT OF PROVISION RESPECTING DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY YEAR

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 14, to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.

He said: The bill contains only one section. It provides for the removal of section 3 (1), which reads as follows:

Any crop year in which the average price is less than eighty cents per bushel may be declared by the governor in council as an emergency year under this act.

And substitutes therefor:

The governor in council may for the purpose of this act declare any crop year to be an emergency year.

It takes out the restriction of eighty cents a bushel.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

NATIONAL REGISTRATION—SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOUR

Mr. KUHL:

1. Has the government used the information obtained in the national registration to compile statistics which will show, (a) the number of skilled man-hours of work which are available; (b) the extent to which these hours of work are being utilized; (c) the manner in which they are being utilized; (d) the number of unskilled man-hours of work available; (e) the manner in which and the extent to which they are being utilized; (f) the extent to which the unskilled labour is being trained?

2. If so, what statistics are available?

Mr. THORSON:

1. (a) No.

(b) See answer to "a".

(c) See answer to "a".

(d) No.

(e) See answer to "d".

(f) No.

2. None.