

Alleged Power Merger

think the only reasonable course is for us to submit the question to the Supreme Court of Canada for decision.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Was an opinion taken from the law officers of the crown?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The law officers followed the advice of the government to submit the question to the Supreme Court of Canada.

RURAL CREDITS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, some few days ago the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer) asked the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) when the government proposed to introduce rural credit legislation. The acting minister answered:

I think I will be able to give my hon. friend a reply this week.

It is now Thursday. I would ask the Acting Minister of Finance if he proposes to introduce rural credit legislation to-morrow.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I recall that I said to my hon. friend from Battle River that I hoped to be able to give him a reply this week. I still hope so. But may I point out to the hon. gentleman that the officer who was particularly interested in this legislation and was working on it for me has been attending the Banking and Commerce committee and other committees, while I have been busy here and have not had time to talk it over with him. I think he has his report ready.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Until today the Banking and Commerce committee has not sat for some time.

Mr. ROBB: Other committees have.

ALLEGED POWER MERGER

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir HENRY DRAYTON (West York): I desire to call the government's attention to a press despatch to the effect that a large holding company is being formed of the power interests on the American side of the line and that their application disclosed the fact that their purpose was to anticipate a treaty with the Canadian government by which the amount of water to be diverted from the Niagara for power use would be doubled, and that success was so far anticipated that they had already purchased land rights from Niagara Falls to Lewiston and had also bought out the

[Mr. Lapointe.]

Great Gorge railway route so as to be ready for development of the new overland power route as soon as the proposed treaty was consummated. I would like to ask whether the negotiations have gone to such a point as to justify these large investments; what the situation is, and whether the draft treaty can be given to the House.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The mention my hon. friend has just made of such a treaty is the first I have ever heard of anything of the kind in contemplation.

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. L. J. LADNER (Vancouver South): I would like to ask the Prime Minister or the Minister of Trade and Commerce if it is the intention of the government to bring down, or allow to be brought down, before the conclusion of the present session, the Copyright Bill No. 2, which was before the House last year and which has been unanimously reported on by the select standing committee after the taking of a lot of evidence. This is a matter which is of interest to a large section of the people from one end of the country to the other.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): The government's intention is to proceed with government measures almost exclusively from now on. We will have to decide in the light of developments what may be possible with private measures.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): There is a long list of orders which have passed this House, some of them three or four months ago, and which are not yet complied with. So far as those that were moved by hon. members in the party which I lead are concerned, I propose to call them to the attention of the government all at once and thereby avoid several members rising for the purpose. We are close, at all events comparatively, to the end of the session, and from the length of this list it would appear as if the session is to die without compliance with the orders of the House at all. I hope that is not the case.

One was passed on February 23 on the motion of the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Clark), regarding the number of acres of land belonging to the Dominion transferred to Ontario and on what date the transfers