

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 4, 1949

The house met at three o'clock.

INCOME TAX

COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION TO THE
SENATE OR HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 10, to amend the Income Tax Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, this bill would add to section 121 of the new Income Tax Act the following words which are underlined in the bill:

Provided that nothing in this section shall operate to prevent a minister of the crown from communicating to the Senate or to the House of Commons any information with respect to corporations obtained under the provisions of this act.

The purpose of this amendment is to remove in part the restrictions as to secrecy imposed by section 121 of the Income Tax Act, which as it stands at present can have the effect of preventing a minister of the crown from giving the Senate or the House such information as it might be perfectly legitimate to ask for and obtain. No change is made by this bill in the matter of information obtained from personal income tax returns. Such information must still be kept secret. I may say that in this particular the bill is different from the one which I introduced last year and to which some objection was taken. On the other hand, this amendment would make it possible to make public any information respecting corporations obtained by the income tax division of the Department of National Revenue.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

ADVANCES BY WAY OF LOAN—EXTENSION OF LIFE
OF THE CORPORATION

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (for the Minister of Trade and Commerce) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Canadian Commercial Corporation Act to provide authority for advances to the corporation by way of loan out of the consolidated revenue fund and to extend the time of operation of the act.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO IMPLEMENT TERMS OF UNION
OF NEWFOUNDLAND WITH CANADA

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend several statutes to make them applicable to or otherwise conform with the Canadian confederation as and when Newfoundland becomes a province of Canada.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—QUESTIONS AND
NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR PRODUCTION OF PAPERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister when provision will be made for answering the sixty-nine questions now on the order paper, and for dealing with notices of motion for production of papers?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I shall be glad to take the question of the leader of the opposition as notice. I will discuss the matter with my colleagues and give an answer at the earliest opportunity.

REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS—RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF LAST SESSION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister? Has the government given consideration to recommending to the house the adoption of any of the proposed changes in standing orders that were recommended to the house last session by a committee of which Your Honour was chairman, and the report of which, as the Prime Minister will recall, was unanimous?