

Statute Law Amendment

Mr. Garson: The statement in connection with this resolution must necessarily be an extremely short one. As hon. members know, there are on the federal statute books of Canada a number of statutes which refer to the various provinces of Canada by name. They have to do with a variety of subjects. The only purpose of the bill, to which this resolution is the introduction, is to amend those various statutes by inserting the word "Newfoundland" in the appropriate places in order to make all of those statutes now upon the books apply to Newfoundland in the same way as they do to every other province of Canada. When the bill goes into committee anyone who is interested may follow, section by section, the explanations which are given opposite, and tie them in, but all of these provisions without exception are what lawyers term consequential in that they arise out of the fact, and as a consequence, of Newfoundland being brought into confederation. They are the amending provisions that have to be made in a number of federal statutes.

Mr. A. L. Smith (Calgary West): I am not attempting to speak on this, but I should like to learn from the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) what method has been adopted. Have you gone through all the statutes of Canada with a view to finding the particular ones that need to be amended, or will your bill be in somewhat general terms, saying that where so and so is mentioned it shall be deemed to include Newfoundland? I am merely asking for information. For example, I can think of a number of places in the criminal code where there are specific provisions relating to certain provinces which do not apply to other provinces. Will the bill when we get it, with the explanations, call attention to the individual statutes to which the bill may have reference, so that we can understand it without doing a great deal of research on our own?

Mr. Garson: The answer is yes, that it will call attention to the specific statutes. The bill will contain a number of sections, and each section will refer to some section of an existing statute which will be amended. It will not be just a general statement of a rather indefinite character.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Golding in the chair.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Garson thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 12, to amend the statute law.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I may say it is not the intention to ask the house to proceed with this bill until we have made substantial progress with

the other one. The last section of the bill will provide that it would come into force on March 31, 1949, and would not be sanctioned unless and until the previous bill approving the terms of union with Newfoundland had been sanctioned.

Mr. Graydon: Then may I ask the Prime Minister when it is intended to move the second reading of the first bill introduced tonight?

Mr. St. Laurent: It is hoped to go on tomorrow with the second reading of the first bill and to allow this bill to stand until the sense of the house has been taken on the first one.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

TRANSITIONAL MEASURES ACT, 1947

CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

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

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the continuation of certain orders and regulations of the governor in council for a limited period during the national emergency arising out of the war.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Before you leave the chair, Mr. Speaker, may I say just a word about this, because I think it is one of the most important measures contemplated for this session. At the present time the cost of living has reached an all-time high. Though there was a slight reduction a month ago, the latest report from the bureau of statistics indicates that the cost of living has now reached the highest figure in our history.

It seems to me the government needs to consider this because of the effect it is having on all the people of Canada. If we look at the price index for 1945, when the war ended, and compare the figures with the present index, we find an increase that is phenomenal. The cost of living index in August, 1945, stood at 119.6. It has now risen to 159.6. That is a tremendous increase since the removal of controls; and the effect, of course, is really disastrous on people with small and fixed incomes, such as veterans and other pensioners, or people whose wages or salary have not gone up to any extent. It seems to me this is a matter with which the house should grapple this session. I have noticed that in the United States, for example, where the increase has been greater than here and the cost of living figure is higher, in his message to congress President Truman indicated the necessity of doing something about the restoration of controls if the cost of living did not come down. And I would