

Washington, March 27.—The new Immigration bill was reported to the Senate this afternoon, and will be given the right-of-way next week. The chief item of interest to Canada is the restriction upon immigrants from Canada not born in the Dominion. No quota barrier is erected against native-born Canadians, but other immigrants from Canada will be treated as though coming from the land of their birth. Thus, a Canadian citizen born in England would be refused admission if the British quota were exhausted.

Senator Colt, Republican, Rhode Island, chairman of the senate immigration committee, interviewed by the Free Press this evening, said: "The underlying principle in the bill is restriction of immigration from all countries except our sister nations on this continent. We find, however, that European immigrants evade the quota provision of the Immigration Act by colonizing in contiguous countries, notably Cuba, and then come into the United States as citizens of such country. To stop this we provided all immigrants shall be treated as coming from their native land. We had no complaint about Canada, but the provision is general, and, of course, applies to Canadian citizens not born on this continent."

I desire to ask the government if they have any information which they can give to the House as to whether this discrimination against naturalized citizens is to be carried on.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Until my hon. friend (Mr. Euler) brought this matter to our attention, I had not had any notice of it. I shall look into the matter to which it refers, and make a reply in a day or two.

REDISTRIBUTION

On the Orders of the day.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Might I be permitted to ask whether it is the intention of the government to have a meeting of the Redistribution committee before the Easter adjournment? As a member of that committee I must protest against the unnecessary delay in getting down to business.

Hon. E. M. MACDONALD (Minister of National Defence): For the information of my hon. friend, I desire to say that a meeting of the committee will be called for the first of the week.

RURAL CREDITS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): A little more than three weeks ago a question was asked of the government by a member of this part of the House to ascertain when the government would place on the Table of the House the report of the commission on Rural Credits. Up to this date there has been no intimation as to whether the government had that report or when it would lay it on the

[Mr. Euler.]

Table. As this matter is one of vital importance to western Canada, and a solution must be reached this year, I would ask the government when we may expect that report and when the House will have it before them.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Professor Tory, who is entrusted with investigating this matter, has not yet reported. As soon as he reports to the government we will be in a position to answer the question.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HON. J. A. ROBB, ACTING MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance) moved:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not wish to be critical, but, according to Rule 17C, on Thursdays and Fridays when the Order of the Day is called for the House to go into committee of supply or of ways and means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the chair without putting any question. I suppose if I were to take the letter of the law, I would have to leave the chair, and the budget speech would be delivered in the committee of the whole House. I think I am living up to the traditions of the House by putting the question and proceeding as we have always proceeded before this rule came into force.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in presenting the annual financial statement to parliament, I cannot refrain from expressing what I know to be the unanimous feeling of this House, our profound regret that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is unable to be present to-day to deliver it himself. Last year that right hon. gentleman delivered his seventeenth budget speech, a record, I believe, unequalled by any other Minister of Finance within the Empire. When, upon the assumption of office by the present administration, the right hon. gentleman returned to his former post as Minister of Finance, it was at a critical period in the history of Canada. I am sure that the House will agree with me when I say that since then the Right Hon. W. S. Fielding has discharged his important and onerous duties with that ability, integrity and courage always characteristic of him during his long and distinguished career. Hon. gentlemen of all

parties in this House will, I know, join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery from his present illness and an early return to his public duties.

Fiscal Year 1922-23—Revenue

The Public Accounts for 1922-23 were submitted to parliament during this present session. The consolidated revenues or ordinary receipts obtained during that year were \$394,614,900, an increase of \$12,662,513.01 over the previous year.

Other receipts, amounting to \$8,479,310.30, which included \$8,199,333.31 received from the Imperial government to cover exchange on repayments in London to the Dominion of Canada from July, 1920, to August 2, 1921, brought the gross revenue to \$403,094,210.30.

Expenditure 1922-23

The expenditure side shows \$332,293,732.09 for ordinary expenses. Capital, demobilization and other charges amounted to \$18,314,814.63, thus making the total disbursements for that year \$350,608,546.72.

The surplus of revenue over total disbursements left \$52,485,663.58 available for railways, Canadian Government Merchant Marine and other obligations amounting to \$84,123,730.59. Of this amount \$77,862,348.23 was required for railways and \$5,979,856.08 for the Canadian Government Merchant Marine. The outcome of the year resulted in an increase of \$31,641,067.01 to the public debt.

Fiscal Year 1923-24

Coming now to the year 1923-24 which has just closed, I might say that some time will elapse before all the returns for that year will come to hand and allow of definite results being determined. We can, however, make a fairly close estimate which should not differ materially from the actual figures when the books are closed.

Estimated Revenue 1923-24

By adding to the actual revenue received by the Department of Finance, up to and including 31st March last, the estimated amount of revenue yet to come, the accounts for that year, when finally closed, will show a total revenue of about \$396,000,000, being an increase of \$1,500,000 over the revenue of 1922-23.

The estimated revenue from customs duties will be \$121,800,000, an increase of \$3,700,000 over the previous year. From excise duties we expect \$38,200,000, an increase of about \$2,500,000. The estimated revenue from excise taxes will be \$121,000,000, an increase of about \$14,500,000. From income taxes we estimate \$53,750,000, a decrease of about \$6,000,000 as compared with the previous year. From delayed business profits taxes we will receive some \$4,650,000, a decrease of \$8,381,000. We estimate a revenue from interest on investments of \$11,700,000, being a decrease of about \$4,700,000, which is accounted for by the reduction in 1922 of some \$56,000,000 in the indebtedness of the Imperial government to Canada.

Estimated Expenditure 1923-24

Turning now to expenditures, it is estimated that when all accounts are closed, the expenditure for the year on ordinary account will be \$328,250,000, a decrease as compared with the previous year of \$4,000,000.

Estimated Surplus of Ordinary Revenue over Ordinary Expenditure, 1923-24

Taking the estimated revenue for the year ended March 31, 1924, as \$396,000,000, and the estimated expenditure chargeable to Consolidated Fund as \$328,250,000, there will be a surplus of revenue over the ordinary expenditure of \$67,750,000, available for capital special and other obligations.

Capital Expenditures, 1923-24

Capital expenditure for public works, including Marine department, will amount to \$3,865,000, and capital expenditure for Railways and Canals, \$8,305,000, making a total capital expenditure of \$12,170,000, an increase of \$2,362,000 over the previous year.

Special Expenditures, 1923-24

Special expenditures will amount to \$8,390,000, of which \$740,000 will be required for demobilization accounts, and \$7,650,000 for discount and cost of loan flotations.

Railway Loans

Parliament at its last session authorised \$74,550,000 for loans to the Canadian National Railway Company, to be made by way of cash, or by way of guarantee, or partly one way and partly the other. These alternative provisions for meeting railway obligations as

