

The Royal Assent

fixing the quantum of the penalty has been inserted in the amendments forwarded to this house.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It is to be done after the bill becomes law.

Motion agreed to, amendments read the second time and concurred in.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Mr. C. H. Larose, Assistant Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Honour, the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, the house went up to the Senate.

And having returned.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the house that the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General had been pleased to give in His Majesty's name the royal assent to the following bill:

An act respecting the taking of a plebiscite in every electoral district in Canada and the taking of the votes at such plebiscite of Canadian service voters stationed within and without Canada.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT OF
PERSONS WHO ENLIST IN HIS MAJESTY'S
FORCES

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mitchell for the second reading of Bill No. 5, to provide for the reinstatement in civil employment of individuals who enlist for service in his majesty's forces or who perform essential war employment.

Mr. SHAW: Just before the debate was adjourned at 5.30 p.m. I had offered the observation that this civil reestablishment measure had served thus far to allay some of the fears which were felt by many of our boys who enlisted in the earlier stages of the war. I also stated that many of those who feared to join the services because no guarantee had been given regarding their reinstatement in civil employment had now seen fit to join one or other of the different branches of the service. While this measure, I am sure, undoubtedly serves to allay these

[Mr. McLarty.]

fears, or many of them, I personally am not equally satisfied that it is going to meet the conditions in a manner possibly anticipated by those who drafted it. I realize that a great national problem is going to face the people and the government of Canada when the period of demobilization arrives. I realize too, as stated in the original order in council, that a measure of this kind may to a certain degree be deemed expedient for the security, defence, peace, order and welfare of Canada. But I think that possibly altogether too much emphasis has been placed upon the measure in that regard.

Personally I fail to see how a single measure designed to meet only a fractional part of the difficulties which are going to confront us can have such beneficial effects with regard to the security of the state, the defence of the state, the peace of the state and so on. I am sure that such a measure will assist to a degree during that wild scramble for a precarious existence which I am satisfied many are going to find themselves faced with at demobilization. In my opinion the transitional period following cessation of hostilities is going to be a dreadful one. I say that because I feel that the government of the day has not learned the full lesson which should have been learned as a consequence of the experiences which we had in this country following the cessation of hostilities after the last great war.

I think the measure itself anticipates a difficult situation in connection with post war unemployment, but I do not think it is going to alleviate unemployment to any great degree, because, as has already been stated here to-day, for every man reestablished under this scheme, the one who took his place at the time of his enlistment is going to become unemployed. Even if this measure has ever so many favourable features, the administration of it, the interpretation placed upon it, will be one of the most important aspects of its treatment. The permanent success of any arrangement of this kind will depend directly upon the character of the personnel who administer it. I have in mind boards or commissions or individuals assigned to offices, with duties attached, having to do with the administration of the measure.

I suggest that all too frequently we have witnessed the spectacle of a well-designed piece of legislation, possibly lofty in purpose, being placed in the hands of what we are sometimes wont to call a high-powered, highly paid board, whose attitude towards the people in whose interests they are supposed to hold