

was permitted to introduce the evidence of comrades that he had been wounded or hurt in a certain way, and this created the basis of agitation.

I have said before, and I take pleasure in saying it again, that the system of Canadian records in the late war was the finest and best system evolved by any country that took part in the war. There was nothing to equal it. It is difficult to know how we came by that system. We followed the War Office to a certain extent. Every document was made out in triplicate, one copy being kept in London, one in Rouen, and one sent to Canada. Everything that happened a man—promotion, appointment, punishment, absence without leave—was shown. His medical papers showed every bit of medical attention that he received. After the war all those documents were assembled, and five hundred tons of them were returned to Ottawa, where they now are. They are very badly housed; they are not in a fire-proof building, and are apt to be destroyed at any time. However, this system is complete, and if you know a man named John Smith who served in the war you can find the Smith you are looking for. If you go down to where the records are kept and say he had a red head or a wart on his nose, or anything about him that you can think of certain keys of a machine will be touched and the card of that John Smith will be produced, and all the information regarding him made available. Consequently the country is secure against the imposter who says he was injured, ill, or sick on a certain day. If that is not the record on his sheet, it is not true. Of course, there is the human element, and some mistakes have been found; but they are so few as to be negligible. The country is absolutely protected against the situation that grew up in the United States. It cannot exist here.

Just one other thing. If the private bill for the relief of an individual appears, it must be stamped out at once, and this House must do it. We have laid it down in our soldier legislation that Parliament can legislate only for the mass, and not for classes. As far as possible this principle should be followed, and Parliament should legislate for classes only when the individuals making up those classes become sufficiently numerous to be capable of identification. We have legislated for the tubercular classes and for the neurotic class because such cases are sufficiently numerous to be segregated and described in an Act of Parliament. Beyond that we should not be asked to go.

Hon. Mr. MACDONELL: I wish to add a word to what the right honourable gentle-

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH.

man from Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) has said regarding the possibility in this country of a log-rolling system such as existed in the United States. Shortly after the war between the North and the South, the pension bill of the United States was \$34,000,000 a year. I think I am correct in that figure. By reason of log-rolling that figure was increased, until to-day it is something like \$129,000,000 a year that the United States is paying in pensions for the war between the North and the South.

While we in this Chamber are most anxious to be just and in every way considerate towards the soldiers who deserve pensions as a result of the war, nevertheless we must remember that it is our duty to watch the safety valve of this country in dealing with any measure which would increase pensions to our returned soldiers, or to their widows and children, not only for the present but for the future.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The sitting was resumed.

At 6 o'clock the Senate took recess.

The Senate resumed at 8 o'clock.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 6

FIRST READING

Bill 340, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1928.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, I shall not enter into a discussion on the details of the Supply Bill. We have all received the estimates as presented in the House of Commons; also the supplementaries. We are familiar with the contents of those Bills, and, as the Senate has never claimed the right to amend a Supply Bill, I now move the second reading.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, since I have been in this House some cause or another has always prevented anything like a full discussion of the estimates. They have come to us in the last hours, sometimes in the last minutes of the Session. I do not recall any occasion on which there has been opportunity for a thorough discussion of the financial condition of the country in relation to the estimates for the current year.