

War Service Grants

and ratification was held up in that way. I can assure my hon. friend that the international labour office is doing an excellent job.

Motion agreed to.

WAR SERVICE GRANTS

INCORPORATION OF ORDERS IN COUNCIL— RECOMMENDATIONS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a measure to amend the War Service Grants Act, 1944, by incorporating in the measure the provisions of certain orders in council passed under the War Measures Act and by extending and clarifying in several other respects the application and operation of the act, as recommended and reported by the special committee on veterans affairs.

He said: May I explain that this is the unanimous report of sixteen members representing all parties. I do not intend to ask that the bill go farther than first reading to-night. I am asking the house to accept the general principles of the resolution and amendments proposed by members of what I think was the most able committee I have ever seen in this house. Then on Monday or Tuesday of next week we can go ahead with the details of the bill, either on first or second reading as may seem fit and proper to the house.

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

Mr. BROOKS: Is the minister going to make a short statement?

Mr. MACKENZIE: I had intended to reserve a full explanation of the bill for the first or second reading, but with the permission of the committee I should like to say now that last year we passed a War Service Grants Act, which was in three parts, and as a result of administration it has been discovered that there were some flaws in the legislation. This year a committee of

sixty ex-servicemen, members of the house, representing all parties and groups, has been working long hours and very hard over the legislation passed last year. We had the most wonderful cooperation from members of all parties in the house and the committee's work was done in the true spirit of the past which has always characterized committees dealing with the welfare of the veterans.

If I may, I should like to reserve a full explanation of the bill for the first or second reading. To-night perhaps it would be sufficient for me to say that the legislation is based on a unanimous report from the committee after careful and truly splendid cooperation.

Mr. BROOKS: I should like to say a few words, although I did not expect this matter to come up to-night, and I am sure the minister did not know five minutes ago that it was coming up. I agree with him that the veterans committee has given this matter serious consideration. The minister has said that there were a few flaws discovered in the administration of the act. I do not know that "flaws" is exactly the right word. There were a number of shortcomings in last year's act. The members of the committee gave every section of it careful consideration. The committee's main, indeed its only object, I am sure, was to get an act which will be for the benefit of the men who are coming back.

The minister says that it was a good committee, and I am sure we shall all agree with him on that. I noticed hon. members who were on the committee throwing out their chests and feeling proud of themselves as the minister paid his tribute. We shall all look forward to the minister's explanation on the first or second reading.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mackenzie thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 176, to amend the War Service Grants Act, 1944.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie the house adjourned at 10.27 p.m.