

people look after themselves. Why should we by this act venture to stand between investors in loan company securities and the loan company itself? We might as well intervene between the investors of any other company, such as industrial power concerns, and the company itself; I do not see a bit of difference. All these things tend to the building up of great superstructures of governmental departments and the massing of power in the hands of individuals in departments. And, oh, how they love it; they love to have a long entourage of officials at their command. But is that good public policy, and are we prepared to take the responsibility which must naturally and inevitably follow? It will not be the officials but this parliament and the government of Canada which will be held responsible. I venture to ask the minister to look again at the basic principles on which the act of 1922 rests and to see whether they do not need revision.

Section agreed to.

On section 3.

Mr. CHURCH: Does the government intend to consolidate and revise this whole act? I do not think that there are the necessary precautions in the legislation as it stands to provide the protection which those interested are entitled to. I understand that one of these insurance companies was recently called upon to supply further security. Surely, in view of the importance of a matter of this kind, an act like this, which is some ten years old, should be revised and consolidated. The scope of the trust companies should be clearly defined; they are performing functions which I am sure it was never the intention of parliament to sanction. There is such an interlocking of trust companies and banks and loan companies, and the rates that are charged to-day are so high, that it seems to me beyond question that the whole thing should be looked into and rates regulated. I would urge the minister in the recess of parliament to prepare for a revision of these acts so that they may be brought up to date to meet the changing conditions of business and to limit the functions of trust companies also within their proper function and scope. The companies are operating to-day in a wider field than it was ever intended they should engage in. It has been shown in the United States that these companies form the backbone for the efficiency operation of trusts and combines in that great land, and the authorities there are endeavouring to revise

the American law with a view to bringing it right up to date. The minister might tell us what he intends to do in this matter. I would remind him that the inspector of insurance has recommended a survey of the whole field; and I believe it would meet with the approval of parliament if the minister would bring down next session a bill for the purpose of consolidating and revising the legislation controlling these companies.

Mr. ROBB: I will consider my hon. friend's observations. I am glad, by the way, to note that I have some support from the other side of the House.

Mr. HANSON: Has the minister considered the question of placing such great power in the hands of the superintendent?

Mr. ROBB: He has no greater power under this legislation than he at present exercises.

Mr. HANSON: With respect to insurance companies.

Mr. ROBB: No greater power.

Mr. HANSON: What about the question of appeal?

Mr. ROBB: They appeal to the Exchequer Court.

Mr. HANSON: On what ground does that appeal lie?

Mr. ROBB: If it is thought that the valuation is not fair an appeal can be made.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Robb thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 173 to amend the Trust Companies Act, 1914.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

LOAN COMPANIES ACT, 1914

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following proposed resolutions:

Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the Loan Companies Act, 1914, and to provide,—

1. That the Superintendent of Insurance shall annually ascertain and certify the total amount of the expenditure incurred by the government for or in connection with the administration of the act during the last preceding fiscal year, and the total amount of income received during the last preceding calendar year by each company, and the findings of the superintendent shall be final and conclusive.

2. That thereupon the superintendent shall ascertain the ratio or percentage which the total expenditure so found and certified bears to the aggregate of the income aforesaid, and shall assess each of the com-