

than they can obtain anywhere else. I do not think there should be any further inducement than that.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—It has been stated that no good reason has been given why the system of insurance should not be compulsory. I have heard some very good reasons stated on this side of the House, and it is not necessary that I should repeat them all; but I may be allowed to say that, as far as the Government is concerned, it would be unsafe to make it compulsory, and for the civil servants it would be unjust. It is not intended at all for others. It would be unsafe for the Government, because if it is compulsory to insure every civil servant they would have to take risks which no company would accept. That is a good reason for not making the insurance compulsory. It would be unjust to the civil servants also, because some men have already insurance on their lives—perhaps all that they can carry. A third ground is that some men want no insurance at all. Some of them are rich and can afford to do without insurance. For those three reasons the House is justified in coming to the conclusion that the insurance system should not be compulsory.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—My intention was that it should be optional with those already in the service, but that it should be compulsory on those who want to come in hereafter. It should be arranged in the same way as in the banks, where there is an abatement from the salary.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—The examination for the Civil Service and the examination for insurance are entirely different. The examination for insurance is more minute, and the family history is gone into; but the Civil Service examination is done in a very gingerly manner. Most of these civil servants belong to benevolent and beneficiary societies and are already insured in fact.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I wish to say one word more before the clause is carried. The hon. Minister of Agriculture said that it would be unfair to the Government to adopt this compulsory system of insurance. Now, inasmuch as it is discretionary with the Government, I cannot see how it would be unfair. The Government would not be

obliged to insure every civil servant: a man who was disqualified by disease would naturally not be insured; but any employee who comes into the service in the future in good health should be insured. It is not intended to apply it to those who are in the service now, unless they wish to come under the terms of the Bill. My suggestion was that it should not apply to persons who could show that they were already insured, so that the reasons given by the hon. gentleman, when examined, amount to very little more than what one finds inside a soap bubble.

The clause was adopted.

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.), from the Committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

WITNESSES AND EVIDENCE BILL.

COMMONS AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN.

A Message was received from the House of Commons to return the Bill relating to witnesses and evidence, with certain amendments.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—This Message informs us that the House of Commons has concurred in the first amendment, striking out the words “and compellable.” Now, the second and third amendments to which the House of Commons has not agreed, were in relation to the clause: “provided, however, that the husband shall not be compellable to disclose any communication made to him by the wife during their marriage.” This House was induced to accept the words “not compellable,” wishing at the same time to give the accused the opportunity of having evidence of such conversation if it was thought in his interest that it should be given. In the other House they have come to the conclusion that it was wiser that there should be no such disclosure at all, and instead of the word “compellable” they have inserted the word “competent,” so that under no circumstances, whether it is favourable to the accused or not, can the wife or the husband be allowed to disclose any communication during marriage. The other amendment is in the subsection of the fourth section, which provided that the failure to give evidence should not be made the subject