

pieces of legislation passed quickly, which goes to prove that sensible legislation can pass rather swiftly in this House.

The Minister is right again that the situation that prevailed in the Flin Flon mineral area had to be settled. It was difficult for the people to understand who had jurisdiction, and which statute would apply with respect to occupational health and safety, the Saskatchewan statutes or the Manitoba statutes. A solution had to be found.

I think the solution the Minister has been able to negotiate with the parties involved, including the two provincial Governments, is the right one. I am going to try to stay away from what the Minister said because he has described the situation very faithfully.

The schedule lists a number of legislations and regulations that will become standard for the area after the Bill is passed. Could we, for example, accept what has until now been the practice that the Elevator Act of either one province or the other would apply? Surely not. In this case, the Acts to which I will refer are Manitoba Acts. For example, with respect to the Fires Prevention Act, if a fire starts in an operation, they will want to know which fire marshal has jurisdiction over the area. This was not clear until now. From now on the Fires Prevention Act, a statute of Manitoba, will apply. The same thing with the Gas and Oil Burner Act, the Manitoba Hydro Act, the Steam and Pressure Plants Act, and the Workplace Safety and Health Act.

The regulations which derive from these pieces of legislation are also listed. Surely one expects that when situations that are likely to be covered by these Acts arise, one knows exactly what statute applies. This is what this Bill will do. It will clarify the whole situation. I think it is a fine piece of legislation that deserves quick passage.

I will conclude by saying that I believe the Minister has depicted the situation in sufficient terms. I also want to give the floor to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy), in whose riding the operations are located. I am sure he will be able to add to what I have been able to say so far. I am rather certain that he will also give his approval to this piece of legislation.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I think this is the second time I have been introduced by my Liberal colleague before I rose to speak. It is true that the legislation does affect my own riding. I must say I am very happy to see this piece of legislation come forward. It has been something I have had the opportunity of working on ever since I became a Member of Parliament in 1979. I do congratulate the Government for doing this.

It has taken a lot of work by the unions and company involved, by the two provinces, the federal Government and the officials of the Department of Labour to have this legislation come before us. I would like to congratulate all the people involved.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting

The mining communities which are affected by this legislation are in northern Manitoba, as one would expect. They are far from the services the federal Government is able to offer in the area of occupational health and safety. Nearby communities with mines come under provincial legislation and those services are readily available. That has been the genesis, the reason for this legislation.

I do have one concern with the legislation and that is something I will deal with when we go into clause by clause study in a few moments. I must say it does make sense to assign this responsibility to the Province of Manitoba. Most of the current mining is being done on the Manitoba side, and on the Saskatchewan side it has actually been a reducing operation with the passage of years. We also have in the Flin Flon mining area more mines being discovered over the years and it is actually an expanding area. Therefore, more and more of the employment is being done on the Manitoba side.

As the Minister did, I would also like to point out that Manitoba legislation is very progressive when it comes to occupational health and safety. That has been the result of tripartite work by employers, employees, and the Government over the years. This legislation does meet the needs of people and it is good legislation for the miners in northern Manitoba. Again, I would like to thank the Minister for moving forward with this very necessary and very progressive legislation.

• (1600)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Paproski in the Chair.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. House in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-98, an Act respecting the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

Shall Clause 2 carry?

On Clause 2.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Chairman, my question relates to the fact that the workers' compensation will not be affected by this legislation. It does seem important that, if we are in a situation where the occupational health legislation of the Province of Manitoba is going to apply, we should also have some clarification on what the Government intends to do with regard to workers' compensation.

Mr. Cadieux: Mr. Chairman, this is a very important question. But as my hon. colleague suggests, the workers' compensation is under provincial jurisdiction. Consequently, I would suggest that both provinces would have to address that particular issue possibly in dealing with our discussions on the administrative arrangements. I do not believe that federal