

Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association

SONS OF SCOTLAND BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

The house in committee on Bill No. 54, to incorporate the Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association.—Mr. Reid—Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

On clause 1—Incorporation.

Mr. POULIOT: Are the ladies and gentlemen mentioned in that clause real good Scotch people? It is a Scottish benevolent association? I should like to know if they are all Scots?

Mr. DUNNING: The sponsors are.

Section agreed to.

Sections 2 to 16 inclusive agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

On the title.

Mr. THORSON: Will the sponsor of the bill be good enough to explain the title?

Mr. REID: It is rather late to start explaining now after the preamble is carried.

Mr. THORSON: It is a misnomer.

Mr. REID: I do not think the hon. member is in earnest. I shall be glad to tell him after it is through.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

INDUSTRIAL LOAN AND FINANCE CORPORATION

The house in committee on Bill No. 57, respecting Industrial Loan and Finance Corporation—Mr. Vien—Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

On clause 1—Loans of \$500 or less: aggregate charge.

Mr. McIVOR: I do not wish to be discourteous to the Senate nor to the hon. member from the other side of the house, the sponsor of this bill. The other night I said a similar bill was unchristian, but that was not fair to the hon. member for Cartier. I will say that this bill is inhuman. Within the last few days I have read some of the advertisements of corporations of this type, and they are very misleading. They seem to be brotherly, very inviting and very sympathetic to those in distress. Once you get into their clutches, however, it is a different story. To me passing a bill of this kind is like hitting a man when he is down. Often in my youth, and occasionally later on, I

[Mr. Dunning.]

engaged in the manly art, and it was always considered a brutal thing to hit a man when he was down; a person who did that sort of thing was called by a special name. I think a corporation or financial concern that will hit a man when he is in financial trouble is most inhuman, and we, the representatives of the people, should not tolerate it. I say they are inhuman because anyone who plans or contrives to reap a rich harvest from his fellow-men who are in deep distress and liable to lose their all, deserves that word. If the hon. member who is an expert in the administration of lethal gas could give these people a few drops of that gas, not enough to be fatal, I think it might be a very good thing.

My personal view is that the borrower should be protected. If our provinces are not able to pay four per cent I am sure hon. members will agree that individuals should not be asked to pay the rates demanded by these companies. I wonder if hon. gentlemen realize that there are companies which seek to extract from those in financial trouble not four per cent, not ten per cent, not twenty per cent, but 27½ per cent and, judging by the experience I have had in the past, before you get out from under, it may cost more than thirty per cent and perhaps nearly fifty per cent.

I had one experience that causes me to rise in my place to-night and protest against companies of this kind. I knew of a hard working man who got into debt, perhaps through listening to a high pressure salesman, and he was faced with the possibility of losing all his property and working a great hardship on his family. Along came these financial concerns, saying: We will get you out of your trouble. They say: Consult us and your financial difficulties will be removed. It is like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. I do not wish to make it any stronger, but I could not call myself fair and honest to my fellowmen if I did not register the most vigorous possible protest against the incorporation of companies of this kind. I voted for the other bill because it was sponsored by an hon. member in this corner of the chamber. It was sent to a committee, but I hoped it would never be returned to this house.

Mr. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I agree with what has been said by the hon. member for Fort William. I have been opposing bills of this kind for the last ten years, because ninety-five per cent of these loans are made to the industrial workers of the country, who are not getting one bit of support from this parliament. We have legislation protecting