

men should be released from training in order to assist in harvesting, but if they do work of this kind while they are on these short leaves, are the farmers not allowed to pay them?

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): There is a general order that troops may not be paid twice, once by the army and then by someone else, but I shall look into this particular question and give my hon. friend and the house a prompt answer.

WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

PROVISION FOR GRANTING TO HIS MAJESTY AID FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The house resumed from Tuesday, June 29, consideration in committee of a resolution to grant to his majesty certain sums of money for the carrying out of measures consequent upon the existence of a state of war—Mr. Ilsley—Mr. Bradette in the Chair.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

The CHAIRMAN: The committee is considering item No. 7.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the item under consideration this afternoon is for the removal of enemy aliens, including Japanese nationals, and other persons of Japanese race, from protected areas in British Columbia. The amount of the vote is \$3,000,000. Last year, according to the records, the vote for this purpose was \$4,575,000. I take it there is no doubt that the vote is really to enable the British Columbia security commission to carry on its work for the present fiscal year. The money will be expended to maintain people of Japanese origin living in Canada—people, by the way, who were formerly self-supporting. So that we are now in the position that the Japanese problem has touched the pockets of the taxpayers of Canada from coast to coast. For the first time since the Japanese came to Canada it has become a matter of some interest to Canadians east of the Rockies, and the Japanese first came, in any large numbers, almost fifty years ago.

The people of British Columbia hope that now, at long last, this Japanese problem will be dealt with as a Canadian problem, rather than as a problem of British Columbia. The people of that province have always been the pawns—and I repeat that word—have always been the pawns in the dealings between Canada and Japan. They found themselves in that unfortunate position for the first time shortly after the Japanese started coming to Canada, in fact, before the turn of the century, in 1898. In that year, the legislature of

[Mr. Cruickshank.]

British Columbia passed what was known as the labour regulation act, the purpose of which was to prevent the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons on works carried on under franchise granted by private acts of the provincial legislature. That measure was passed because the Chinese and Japanese were then coming into British Columbia in large numbers and were interfering with white labour in the province. It was disallowed by the dominion government.

The reason for the disallowance is set out on page 70 of a memorandum entitled "Dominion Power of Disallowance of Provincial Legislation," issued by the king's printer in 1938. The reason given is as follows:

The act affects not only the relations between the dominion and Japan but also the relations of the empire with the latter country. Further, power of legislature to enact statutes affecting the rights of aliens not free from doubt.

That disallowance by the dominion government was made after there had been—and, by the way, this is a vital question to the people of British Columbia, and I would ask the Minister of Labour to listen. He may have a lot of heartaches over this Japanese problem, before he is through.

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, in view of the hon. member's observations I believe I should explain that I was just looking up what the policy of the United States government had been toward the Japanese, so that I might reply to the hon. member.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee met at eight o'clock.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, before the dinner recess I was pointing out that the people of British Columbia have high hope that the Japanese problem will now be considered a problem of the whole Canadian people, and furthermore that the people of that province have been the pawns in the dealings between Canada and Japan. I went on to point out that the first time they found themselves in that unhappy position was in the year 1898, when the dominion government vetoed a bill passed by the British Columbia legislature known as the labour regulation act, which in effect provided that Chinese and Japanese could not be employed on works being carried on under franchise granted by private acts of the provincial legislature. It is interesting to read the correspondence that