

Since it is the fund and not the association concerned which is required to be registered, the exception in section 2 (b) of the 1917 Act with respect to churches and the Salvation Army has been omitted, but the provision is retained exempting from the application of the Act "any collection at Divine service in a place of public worship."

Two features of the 1917 statute which caused considerable difficulty have been omitted, viz., provision for local registration authorities and for exemption by the Minister with respect to certain war charities. It is suggested that facilities for rapid transmission of applications by air mail which now exist render it no longer necessary to provide local registration authorities, and thereby overcome considerable difficulties which had been experienced in the administration of the 1917 Act. There does not appear to be any need to impose upon the Minister responsibility of exercising his discretion in circumstances which might give rise to a suggestion of discrimination.

The only other substantial respect in which the draft differs from the earlier Act is with regard to the provision for termination of registration by the Minister "whenever, in his discretion, he may consider that effective co-ordination of public subscriptions for the relief of suffering or distress, whether connected with the war or otherwise, renders such termination desirable in the public interest," and the provision for establishment, if desired, of a separate board to carry out more effectively the work of co-ordination. It is hoped that by this expedient it may be possible to avoid unnecessary overlapping of effort in some directions and inadvertent neglect of necessary endeavour in other fields where relief of suffering or distress may be urgently required.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I was unable to catch the full meaning of one part of the explanation, which stated that the present Bill differed from the Act of 1917 in that the Minister will no longer have to exercise discretion in certain circumstances. This change is said to be made because exercise of that discretion might be considered biased. I do not know how the Minister can possibly be relieved of the exercise of any discretion.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am informed that under the Act of 1917 the Minister could refuse to exempt an alien organization which asked leave to carry on its work without registration. Under this Bill all such organizations must register.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY BILL SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from yesterday the debate on the motion for the second reading of Bill 5, an Act respecting a Department of Munitions and Supply.

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable senators, when yesterday I moved adjournment of the debate I did so in order that we might have an opportunity to read the Bill, which was not possible during the debate.

At the last session we passed legislation for the appointment of a board to act in consultation with the Minister in the purchase of war supplies. No doubt the Government introduced that legislation because of a certain investigation held just before the opening of that session. I think it was called a Munitions Board.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: A Defence Purchasing Board.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: In this Bill I do not see any reference to the Defence Purchasing Board. What has become of this body? Apparently it was considered that in time of peace such a board was necessary for the purpose of advising the Administration. Does this Bill contain any provision to set up a similar group of business men and experts to function in time of war, when their assistance might be much more important? In other words, when a new department is being set up, is any provision made for a board to act in consultation with the Minister who takes charge of the department?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend is referring to clause 5, which deals with the powers of the Minister. It reads:

(1) The Minister shall have such administrative powers and duties in relation to the supply of munitions and supplies and for the execution and carrying out of defence projects for, during or respecting the present war as may be conferred on him by the Governor in Council, and the Governor in Council may also, if he considers it expedient in connection with the supply of munitions and supplies and the execution and carrying out of defence projects that any powers or duties of a Government department, board or authority, whether conferred by statute or otherwise, should be transferred to or exercised or performed concurrently or otherwise by the Minister, by Order in Council make the necessary provision for such purpose and any Order in Council made in pursuance of this section may include any supplemental provisions which appear necessary for the purpose of giving full effect to such Order in Council.

(2) Any Order in Council made under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Order in Council.

I am informed that the present Purchasing Board will continue to function until the Minister of Finance decides whether it should be replaced by another organization or its duties transferred to the Department of Finance. The Government are of opinion that the organization set up last session would