

With one exception the bill before us now contains the same amendments as the previous bill. At present the society may hold real estate in Canada to the value of \$100,000. By subsection 2 of section 1 of the bill the society asks that:

The annual value of the real estate held in Canada by or in trust for the society shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars.

If my memory serves me correctly, the bill before us last year placed no limit on the value of real estate which could be held by the society.

The increase in the membership of the council, which is identical with the increase proposed in the previous bill, is necessitated by the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, the growth of the population of Canada, and a strong desire to give the various communities a greater voice in the conduct of the society's affairs. The enlargement of the executive committee is necessitated by the expansion of the central council.

The final amendment is that which is required to sanction the use of "La Société Canadienne de la Croix-Rouge" as the name of The Canadian Red Cross Society in the French language.

Some statements made in the debate on this subject last session indicated misunderstanding and doubt concerning certain operations of the Red Cross Society; but let me say, to reassure members of the society who may not have understood the refusal of the Senate to give unanimous consent to the amending legislation of last year, that every member of this chamber is fully aware of the fundamental value of the society, and appreciative of the great work done by it not only for Canadians but for people in many parts of the world, particularly during and following the second world war. Speaking from memory, I believe that a sum approaching \$50 million was subscribed by Canadians, through this society, to maintain life in the impoverished areas of Europe and elsewhere, and to aid men, women and children whose unhappy circumstances were almost wholly due to the ravages of war and the internal troubles which followed the war.

The Red Cross Society in Canada was formed in 1896. As some references have been made in this chamber to the St. John Ambulance Association, it may be worth while to mention that the same individual, General Ryerson, promoted the formation of the Red Cross Society and of the St. John Ambulance Association. The society obtained statutory powers in 1909, and in 1927 it was constituted an autonomous national society internationally recognized by the committee of the International Red Cross.

I know that difficulties have occurred between the Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association, in connection with various undertakings; but I am sure that every honourable senator who looks into the facts will agree that both these organizations are trying earnestly to work together and that there is no reason in the world why they cannot arrive at an amicable agreement. I would further assert that when the bill has received second reading and has been thoroughly discussed in the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills, where pertinent questions can be put to and answered by responsible representatives of the society, the Senate will be able to play a valuable part in bringing together, on a harmonious basis, the two societies I have mentioned. Incidentally, the Deputy Minister of National Health has thrown out suggestions to this end, and the two organizations have been working together in the hope of reaching a successful conclusion. Personally I am positive that an agreement will be arrived at which will be both just and beneficial to both associations, and I believe that, in the ways I have mentioned, the members of the Senate can materially help to promote the best interests of the two groups.

Hon. Norman P. Lambert: Honourable senators, because of the circumstances which surrounded the introduction of this same bill, in almost the closing minutes of last session, some of us at that time took exception to the pressing of the passage of the measure. Incidentally, the bill received rather dubious treatment in the other place.

Hon. Mr. Euler: May I ask my friend about a phrase which has been used several times by the mover of the second reading. What is this "other place"?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: The House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: I leave the answer to my honourable friend's imagination. I am trying to reconstruct the circumstances under which we dealt with this matter, rather abruptly, I must admit, but necessarily so, in the concluding moments of last session.

We are asked now, as we were asked then, to give approval to amendments of the Red Cross Society Act, the main one of which is to provide for increased financial facilities for the society. Now, as has been stated by the sponsor of the bill, we shall have the opportunity, when this bill goes before the committee, to satisfy our desire for information as to details of the society's real estate holdings. From what I know of the situation I am certain that the circumstances which resulted in the rejection of the bill at the close of last session were not related to any failure of the