

SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable members, I think this is the only Bill as to which we can make any substantial complaint with respect to the other House. The Bill is quite extensive and deals with about a score of clauses of the Criminal Code. It was introduced in the other House on the 20th of June. Ten days have been consumed in its consideration, and we are expected to deal with it in the course of a few minutes. This is entirely unfair. I know it is impossible for a Government to bring down all its legislation in the early part of the session. As circumstances develop it is necessary to introduce particular measures towards the end of the session, and there is no way of avoiding it. The bills we dealt with this afternoon were bills of that character. But this Bill is different, and I know of no reason why it could not have reached us a considerable time before this.

I can make a pretty full explanation of the measure and then leave its disposition with honourable members.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would it not be well to deal with the Bill in Committee of the Whole?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, the Bill can be more fully considered by question and answer.

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

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Right Hon. Mr. Meighen, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Donnelly in the Chair.

On section 1—dangerous weapons; permit required for offensive weapons, etc.:

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The only change is in paragraph b, where the words "pistol, revolver" are added. The amendment in paragraph e merely provides for a record of the sale or repair of offensive weapons.

The next change is in paragraph h:

not having a permit in Form 76d buys any pistols or revolvers for resale, or having such permit neglects to keep a record of any purchase, the date thereof, such sufficient description of the pistols or revolvers purchased as may be necessary to identify them, or neglects to send a duplicate of such record by registered mail to the person who issued the permit in Form 76d.

The purpose is manifest.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Would the amendment affect pawnshops?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, yes. Subsection 2 contains this amendment:

Every one is guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding sixty days, or to both fine and imprisonment, who without authority from the Minister of National Defence carries or discharges any firearm upon any property or premises under the control or management of the said Minister.

The inference is that the ordinary law in this regard does not apply to territory under the Minister of National Defence.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—other permits:

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The only change here is the adding of the words "or 76D."

Section 2 was agreed to.

On section 3—having pistol or revolver not registered; registration of revolvers and pistols:

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Subsection 1 provides for the registration of pistols and revolvers. Before reading subsection 2, I may say that this new section comes into effect only on proclamation; presumably when the Mounted Police get ready to put the system into effect.

Hon. Mr. PARENT: Will this have a retroactive effect? Shall I have to register any firearms now in my possession?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The honourable gentleman will have to register them after this section comes into effect.

Subsection 2 reads:

The Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or any officer duly authorized by him, or any person authorized by the Attorney-General of any province, shall register all revolvers and pistols in respect of which application for registration is made and shall thereupon record the name, address and occupation of the person making the application, the name of the owner, the use if any to which the revolver or pistol is intended to be put and a full description of such revolver or pistol.

Hon. Mr. COPP: Does the amendment make it necessary to register shot-guns used for sporting purposes?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Speaking without definite investigation, I do not think there is any provision whereby those who have shot-guns regularly in their possession