

for the relief of returned soldiers; would they come within this definition?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I have no hesitation in saying that the minister would exempt them if necessary, because they are, as my hon. friend has said, a worthy body.

Mr. McKENZIE: They should not—nor should any religious body of that kind—be left open to prosecution.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: If my hon. friend will look at section 10, subsection 2, he will find the following:

Proceedings for offences against this Act, other than offences against section nine, shall not be instituted except with the consent of the minister.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Surely you would not want a clergyman to be liable to imprisonment.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: My hon. friend is raising many bogeys in connection with this legislation.

Mr. PUGSLEY: It is so absurd in some respects.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I do not agree with my hon. friend. Nearly all legislation that is introduced is absurd to him, so that he may not be surprised if I do not take his view as to what is absurd or what is not absurd.

Mr. PUGSLEY: An hon. gentleman on the other side of the House, who spoke very clearly on the subject, came pretty near to calling this Bill as drafted an absurd one.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The hon. gentleman did not use the word "absurd." He argued the matter very temperately; I think that he had not read the Bill through.

Mr. MACDONALD: Why should this Bill not be entitled: An Act relating to War Collections?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The whole Bill would have to be redrafted in that case.

Mr. MACDONALD: I think that the description "war charities" is unfortunate. Provision ought to be made in the definition clause for the application of the Act to sailors. The word "charitable" should be struck out. The minister would then have power to deal with organizations or individuals collecting money for any purpose connected with the European war. If the word "collection" were used, or some other appropriate word, the Bill would be in much better shape.

Mr. MARCIL: I support the view of the hon. member for Pictou. I have had an opportunity on certain occasions of addressing public meetings in support of the Patriotic Fund, and I have always impressed upon my hearers that anything we were giving to the soldier or his family was not to be considered in the light of charity, but that it was well earned and well deserved on account of the services the soldier was performing for his country. The soldiers themselves would not be pleased to hear that any organization was extending "charity" to them. The word is badly chosen.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: There is an objection to applying the word "charity" to assistance given to our soldiers. This Bill goes much further—it refers to the relief of suffering, of distress, or the supplying of needs or comforts to sufferers from the war. It applies to the raising of money, for sufferers in Belgium, and that is clearly a charity. This Bill applies to appeals of which there are many in this country. The Red Cross Fund—

Mr. MACDONALD: That is not charity.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It would apply to the Red Cross Fund whose operations extend to all the countries of the Allies; it would apply, for instance, to appeals for the orphans of Serbia, Poland, or Russia.

Mr. MARCIL: The Armenians.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It would apply to appeals on behalf of Armenians. Clearly, there is no better term than the word "charity" in that connection. The assistance we give to our soldiers from the Patriotic Fund, of course, should not be regarded as charity. The word "charity," however, is a good English word, properly applicable to an organization the object of which is to relieve sufferers in distress, let us say, in Belgium, Armenia, Poland, or any other country. It is only playing upon words to object to the term.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The Minister of Finance took objection to the use of the word "absurd" by which I characterized a portion of this Bill. The minister will remember that I was dealing with the section which provides for a penalty, and it was intimated that a clergyman or the officer of a church, might be liable. The minister stated there would be no difficulty about that because there could be no prosecution without the consent of the Secretary of