

consideration impossible. I am in entire accord with the words of the hon. member for Victoria and Carleton (Mr. Caldwell) in this regard. My understanding is that the very late decision on the subject was unnecessary in view of the fact that on more than one occasion the members of the committee who sit behind me urged a more expeditious dealing with the question on the part of this House and of its committee. It must be said in justice to the Senate that there is some ground for the complaint in this respect.

Mr. BELAND: One word in explanation. Regarding the lateness of the action of the House of Commons, I do not think the remarks of my right hon. friend are justified. The report of the committee had not been before this House more than forty-eight hours before a notice appeared in the Votes and Proceedings under my name with respect to the same amendments which are recommended.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not my point, although I do not think that even forty-eight hours should have elapsed to begin with. The dilatory action on the part of this House was due to the delay in having the report in; members of the committee have said that it was unduly delayed. There were promptings on the part of hon. members behind me to make more expeditious progress in the committee, but that was not done and consequently we are in this position to-day.

Mr. BELAND: All groups in the House were represented on the committee and I must resent the suggestion that there was any delay that could have been avoided. To my own knowledge the members of the committee have been working for the last three months, having had 29 sittings in the course of which they laboured almost day and night. This is a difficult problem and friends of the right hon. gentleman sitting behind and around him who were members of the committee know with what earnestness the committee has been on the job.

Mr. ARTHURS: They were pressing for action.

Mr. BELAND: Does the hon. member think that the committee could have proceeded any faster than they did?

Mr. ARTHURS: Yes, I do.

Mr. BELAND: The hon. gentleman was a member of the committee. Why did he not assist in expediting matters?

Mr. CLARK: We did our best, absolutely. [Mr. Meighen.]

Mr. BELAND: Of course you did, I know you did; and the legislation was introduced in this House forty-eight hours after the report had been laid upon the Table and not concurred in. I was ready to proceed the very first day but my hon. friend was one of those who objected to the report being concurred in. He was one who objected, and I remember saying to him that, if it was the desire, we should lay aside the report and proceed with the legislation.

Motion agreed to.

At 1.50 p.m. the sitting was suspended until 2.30 p.m. this day.

The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.

### PENSION ACT AMENDMENT

#### CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following communication from the Clerk of the Senate:

SATURDAY July 19, 1924.

Resolved, that a message be sent to the House of Commons respecting their request for a free conference to consider certain amendments made by the Senate to Bill No. 255, an act to amend the Pension Act, informing that House that for the reasons already given the Senate does not see the utility of a conference at this late hour of the session.

A. E. BLOUNT,

Clerk of the Senate.

Hon. H. S. BELAND (Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment): Mr. Speaker, in expressing my regret that no better solution can be arrived at, and in order to save those clauses of the bill which passed the House and were not interfered with by the Senate, especially the clause which provides for the extension of the payment of the bonus for two years from the first of September next, I beg to move that this House concur in the amendments made by the Senate to the said bill.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS AND SENATE

#### PROPOSED CHANGE OF RELATIONS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, having in mind the action of the second Chamber with respect to the measure which has just been amended and also the fate of a number of bills adopted by the Commons and defeated in the Senate, I think hon. members will agree with me that the time has come when the Commons in Canada should seek to gain rights and privileges with respect to legisla-