

had desired to sit tomorrow and my honourable friend had wished to proceed then, we certainly would have enjoyed listening to him, and I am sure we could have made good use of the day. I regret that he thought it necessary to make certain dire threats in order to secure an adjournment of the debate. Those threats make me tremble, and in the circumstances I am agreeable to a further adjournment of the debate.

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I think the acting leader (Hon. Mr. Copp) should thank the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), who so capably filled the breach.

The motion of Hon. Mr. Marcotte was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned.

PENSION FUND SOCIETIES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. A. B. Copp (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) moved the second reading of Bill V-4, an Act to amend the Pension Fund Societies Act.

He said: Honourable senators, I understand that the leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) has asked the honourable gentleman from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) to explain this bill.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I must apologize for speaking twice in the same afternoon. The bill before the house is an urgent measure, which was passed in exactly the same form last year, but which died on the Order Paper of another place. As I gave a full explanation of the bill in February of 1949, I assume that I may limit my remarks at this time. If any details are desired, honourable senators will find them at page 53 of the *Debates of the Senate*, 1949.

The Pension Fund Societies Act, which has been in force some sixty-two years, was first enacted by 50-51 Victoria, Chapter 31, and assented to on June 23, 1887. It is now to be found in the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, Chapter 155. This legislation provides a simple procedure whereby the superior officers of a corporation legally transacting business in Canada under any Act of the Dominion of Canada, may create a body corporate, designated "a pension fund society" of the corporation, with power to create funds to provide pensions for employees incapacitated by age or infirmity, and to pay annuities to widows and children. Last February I expressed surprise that this legislation had been so little availed of in view of the simplicity of its procedure, its beneficial character, and the length of time it has been on the statute books.

At that time I enumerated thirteen important corporations who had taken advantage of the machinery provided.

The bill which is now before the house, and which honourable senators passed last February, extends the benefits of the pension fund society of any corporation to the employees of the subsidiaries of that corporation. The bill was prompted by the desire of the Imperial Tobacco Company, which has had a pension fund society for many years, to include all its employees in one society—and if the bill were passed, any other corporation under similar circumstances would enjoy the same rights and powers. The Imperial Tobacco Company is a large corporation, having 8,000 employees, fifty per cent of whom are with the company's six subsidiaries. The company now wishes to extend pension fund privileges to the employees of its subsidiaries. Hitherto, in order to do that, it would have been necessary to have seven separate societies, seven annual meetings, seven minute books, and so on. Worse than that, there would have had to be seven boards of directors. It is therefore desirable that the one society should act for the main company and the subsidiaries, to which I can see no objection.

As this existing legislation is highly in the public interest, has stood the test of time and has never been abused, and as the amendment proposed by this bill is in keeping with the modern trend and the government's policy of extending highly humanitarian pension provisions to employees and their widows and children, I have no doubt that honourable senators will pass it without delay so that it will not again die on the Order Paper of another place.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Has any change been made to the bill as passed last year?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I have checked the bill and can report that no substantial change has been made.

Hon. Mr. Copp: Is there any need of sending the bill to committee?

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: If no change has been made in the bill, I do not see any need of referring it to committee.

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

DIVORCE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Hon. Mr. Aseltine, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Divorce, moved the second reading of the following bills:

Bill W-4, an Act for the relief of Chesna Laing Shapiro.