

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Would anyone who found himself caught in the toils of the Act not be allowed to plead compulsion? Who is to prove that it was not involuntary?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: He is liable anyway, even if he succeeds.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: There is no way of proving that it is voluntary or involuntary.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That may be, but we should not make a serious offence of something that is not an offence at all. I move the insertion of "voluntarily."

The British Act contains provision for permits or licences to cover special cases, though I do not know whether it is availed of. Is the Government of Canada strongly opposed to adopting such a provision?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I know the matter was discussed at length in the other Chamber. I do not recall the reasons advanced for the Bill as it is.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It is not likely there would be cases here.

The proposed amendment of Right Hon. Mr. Meighen was agreed to.

The Bill was reported as amended.

CONCURRENCE IN AMENDMENT

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, to whom was referred Bill 23, an Act respecting Foreign Enlistment, has reported the Bill with a certain amendment. Is it your pleasure to concur in the amendment?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I was going to raise a question to see what the reaction of the leader of the Government would be. If Great Britain becomes involved in war and the present Government of Canada carries out its policy of taking no action until Parliament can be assembled and its views ascertained, and if the Government, for the purpose of bridging the period between the outbreak of war and the decision of Parliament, decides to issue a proclamation of neutrality, would it be the intention of the Government to invoke the provisions of this Act to prevent Canadians from taking service under His Majesty in his right as King of the United Kingdom?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As I read the Act I do not think the question would present itself.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: If under neutrality the United Kingdom is not a foreign state, why not define "foreign state" as I suggested?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have said that I have no objection.

The amendment was concurred in.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 55, an Act to amend the Department of National Revenue Act.

He said: Honourable senators, this is a very short Bill, which may be explained in the following terms. Civil servants who are about to be superannuated because of age are granted leave of absence for a certain period. In all departments of the Government except the Department of National Revenue the superannuation payments start when the period of leave expires; in the Department of National Revenue they start at the beginning of that period. Thus there is a difference of treatment between employees of the National Revenue Department and those of other departments. The purpose of this Bill is to provide that officers in the Department of National Revenue shall receive the same treatment in this respect as other civil servants.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: With the leave of the House I move the third reading of the Bill.

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

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, we meet optimists in this world, and even in this capital I have met people who assert that we shall have prorogation by Wednesday evening. I am not so optimistic as to come within their class, but I must take notice of the possibility; so I shall move that when the Senate adjourns this evening it stand adjourned until Monday next at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.