

since shortly after confederation. This bill grants very wide powers as set out on several of its pages; powers to maintain a general fund, make provision for deficiency in the general fund, dispose of surplus of benefit fund, acquire real estate, and so on. It covers matters that are largely provincial. In view of the fact that we have already such excellent labour legislation and labour unions, I am surprised that it should be considered necessary to establish an organization such as this at the present time, because, as I say, it undoubtedly deals with a large number of local matters that are covered by various statutes under the federal Department of Labour and under the province as well. Section 15 of this bill provides that the society may acquire the whole or any part of the rights, assets and property of any kind whatsoever of the Workmen's Circle incorporated under the laws of the state of New York.

What have we to do with an organization in New York? Have we not trouble enough of our own without bothering about what goes on in the United States? Why do we want to bother with any workmen's circle there? It seems to me that we are going around in a circle here. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the hon. member who is sponsoring this bill and I know he has always been a friend of the working man, but I must say to him that I cannot see any necessity for a bill of this kind. I certainly do not see why there should be such an organization.

I have never mentioned race or religion in this country—I am not that kind of man—but I am afraid that if we are to have various organizations of this kind; if we are to have different circles set up, we shall have a tremendous amount of work in parliament from various other circles coming up for charters, some of which are more ornamental than useful. I do not know much about this circle, but in the other place it passed to the sound of a trumpet. There are secret circles in the other end of the building, and they are here today and gone tomorrow. I do not see why we should pass this bill. There was one bill for which second reading was asked there some time ago and it had not even been printed. I should like to get some explanation from the mover because he is a man who generally gives an illuminating address. He might be able to convert me and others too, but I say in all sincerity that we are going very far afield when we propose to incorporate societies that will be linked up with organizations in New York or elsewhere across the border. What we want today is a national policy not

only for capital but for labour. I do say that about all United States organizations, even though they have been started for many years past and been in Canada. I say that the time has come when some reason will have to be given for coming to Canada to do fraternal business in the interests of peace and prosperity and the working classes in this country.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 1 carry?

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): No. I want to ask the sponsor of the bill to give us an explanation of it. I have no opinion one way or another, but it does seem to suggest some extraordinary powers. It may be quite all right. I think we should have a full explanation of the intention of the bill.

Mr. CROLL: This is the ordinary incorporation of a fraternal society for the purpose of insurance benefits. The Workmen's Circle is a United States organization having branches in Canada. They have decided to embark on their own in Canada and have therefore requested this parliament to incorporate them. The reference made by the hon. member for Broadview to the Americans was merely for the purpose of taking over what assets they had in this country and accepting their liabilities. The bill has been gone over by the insurance department and they find it satisfactory. I thought the bill would be referred to the appropriate committee; but as the house is dealing with it, I may say that it is the ordinary bill of this sort. The Workmen's Circle have been in Canada for nearly twenty-five years. They are merely asking for the ordinary incorporation that a friendly and fraternal organization requires.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Does section 5 carry out what you say?

The CHAIRMAN: Does section 1 carry?

Mr. HACKETT: I was going to ask if there is any reason for dealing with this bill in this way. This is the type of bill that generally goes to a committee such as the banking and commerce committee where it is dealt with in a businesslike way. The officials of the different departments affected can go there and give their views and enable the members of the committee to express an enlightened opinion. I do not know to what extent the hon. gentleman who is sponsoring this bill feels that he can vouch for those who are incorporating this society or feels competent to express an opinion concerning the various phases of the activities in which this body would like to engage. Is there any objection to referring this bill at this time to