

Honourable Senator White, for the third reading of the bill. Is it your pleasure to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Carried.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: On division.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed, on division.

ANNUAL VACATIONS BILL

THIRD READING

Hon. William R. Brunt moved the third reading of Bill 16, to provide for annual vacations with pay for employees in federal works, undertakings and businesses.

He said: Honourable senators, I do not propose making a speech at this time, but yesterday the honourable the junior senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Wall) asked me a question which I was unable to answer at the time. I now have the information. The honourable gentleman asked if I could give him any idea of the number of employees who would benefit under this bill. I have ascertained that between 4,000 and 5,000 employees will benefit immediately, and approximately 150,000 additional employees will eventually benefit. The benefit arises in this way. These employees are now working under a collective bargaining agreement which provides that they must be employed for a period of three years before they become entitled to two weeks' vacation with pay. Under this bill these same employees will be entitled to two weeks' vacation with pay upon the completion of two years' employment.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: How many does the honourable senator say are subject to being employed for three years before getting two weeks' vacation with pay?

Hon. Mr. Brunt: The answer is 150,000, of whom 90 per cent are employed by the railways.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: That seems to be an extraordinarily large figure. I wonder if I have understood the sponsor aright. Do I understand him to say there are now 150,000 employees who come under a collective bargaining agreement that requires them to be employed for a period of three years before they become entitled to two weeks' vacation with pay, and who will benefit under this legislation to the extent they will have to be employed only two years before becoming entitled to the vacation?

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Yes, the figure is 150,000, and I have no hesitation in disclosing the source of my information. It was furnished to me this morning by the Department of

Labour. I have been told that 150,000 employees will eventually benefit upon the passing of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: You said immediately.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: I am sorry. I said that 4,000 to 5,000 employees will benefit immediately and that 150,000 employees will benefit eventually.

The Hon. the Speaker: What is the first figure the honourable senator from Hanover (Hon. Mr. Brunt) gave?

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Between 4,000 and 5,000 sir.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Four to five thousand people will what? It is a little difficult to understand.

Hon. Mr. Brunt: Four to five thousand persons will benefit immediately, and 150,000 will eventually benefit.

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

INDIAN BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. W. M. Aseltine moved the second reading of Bill 246, to amend the Indian Act.

He said: Honourable senators, I move the second reading of this bill, which has been brought down for the purpose of amending section 12 of the Indian Act. All parties in the other house unanimously approved the bill, and I feel sure it will receive the same consideration in this chamber.

Before dealing with the amendment I should perhaps give a brief history in connection with this legislation. Between 1871 and 1910 certain treaties were made with Canadian Indians who then owned practically all the land in the Prairie provinces. Under these treaties the Indians surrendered their lands and in return they were given certain reservations and annual payments, which later became known as "treaty money". At the time those treaties were being negotiated, persons of mixed blood, commonly known as half-breeds, also claimed an interest in these lands which were being taken from the Indians. The half-breeds were given a choice between becoming treaty Indians or receiving an allotment of Crown lands or money scrip. A person who took half-breed lands or money scrip relinquished on behalf of himself and his descendants any right to be recognized as a treaty Indian. As a result, many recipients of half-breed lands and money scrip never settled on the lands as intended. They sold, gave away, or in some manner or other disposed of their rights in the lands or transferred their scrip, and later found themselves in dire poverty and