

Federal Fire Insurance

is efficient, but this is not enough. The time has come for the government to consider laying down some policy along the lines I have suggested.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

FEDERAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The house in committee on Bill No. 49, to incorporate Federal Fire Insurance Company of Canada—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City)—Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

On section 1—Incorporation.

Mr. HEAPS: May I ask the minister or whoever is in charge of this bill whether it has received the approval of the government or of those in charge of measures of this kind?

Mr. DUNNING: These bills, incorporating Wellington Fire, Federal Fire, Gore District Mutual, Sterling Insurance, and Sons of Scotland, have all been examined by the superintendent of insurance, have been to the committee on banking and commerce, and have been returned here without amendment. They comply with all the conditions of the Department of Insurance.

Mr. HEAPS: The superintendent of insurance has approved of these measures?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes. In some cases in these bills there are conditions to be complied with before the incorporation can be proceeded with. For instance, in the case of a provincial company which is by statute becoming a federal company, the protective provisions are inserted at the instance of the superintendent of insurance in order to ensure that everything is regular. I have not personal knowledge of them, I might say, but I have confidence in that official.

Section agreed to.

Sections 2 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

WELLINGTON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The house in committee on Bill No. 50, to incorporate the Wellington Fire Insurance Company—Mr. Macdonald (Brantford)—Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Sections 1 to 5 inclusive agreed to.

On section 6—Classes of insurance authorized.

[Mr. Church.]

Mr. CHURCH: I would call the attention of the committee to the fact that the incorporators of this Wellington Fire Insurance Company are the same as the incorporators of Federal Fire Insurance Company, the bill previously before the committee; they are all good people, though, and they are asking for the same powers as those provided in the other bill. All these companies are from Toronto. Why do they want a federal charter? They are doing only a local business. Why are two companies being incorporated for the same purposes? I don't want to oppose them but I want to secure information. There should be proper control over rates and for that purpose I submit that we ought to have a federal department.

Why do these people want two charters? By no stretch of the imagination can it be said that either of these bills is for the general advantage of Canada; they are merely for the promotion of local business. Here we have two companies seeking incorporation on the same day. One of the bills has passed through practically all its stages in this house and nothing has been said about it. No wonder the condition of affairs in Canada to-day is what it is in connection with these insurance companies. There is a long list of classes of insurance in which this company may engage, all set out on page 2 of the bill, and I think we should have an explanation either from the minister or from the sponsor. Does the government propose to pass further general regulations to control these companies? Can some five or six persons come here and obtain two separate charters in one evening, one in the name of the Federal Fire Insurance Company and the other in the name of the Wellington Fire Insurance Company, without one word of explanation from some responsible person or any government policy?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is a peculiar circumstance that we should be asked to incorporate at the same time two companies having the same set of directors. I do not know anything about this bill but it does strike me as a rather peculiar arrangement, and I support the suggestion of my hon. friend that there should be an explanation.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford): Both of these companies were incorporated under provincial authority and are now doing business under provincial charters. It is now their intention to extend their operations beyond the province of Ontario and for that reason they wish to have incorporation under the federal parliament. The applicants are directors or officers of the existing companies and the