

*Canadian Forces Act*

**Mr. Claxton:** Yes. In the case of the North Atlantic treaty nations we have signed an agreement with them called "the status of forces agreement", and we have implemented that agreement by passing legislation in December, 1951. Most of the other countries have not yet implemented this agreement by legislation and we have not yet proclaimed our legislation, but we are doing so now that we can benefit from it.

In the case of the United States our relations are governed by the common law of the United States, which gives us the same rights that we have given them by the statute to which I referred a moment or two ago. In the case of other commonwealth countries, we have reciprocal legislation called "the Visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act." In the case of Japan, however, we have no agreement, and we are still trying to negotiate one. Consequently it is particularly with regard to Japan to which my qualification "wherever possible" applies.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Is the minister familiar with the arrangement the United States forces had with England during the last war, which was that the judges of courts had the power to say whether a man should be turned over to the army courts or whether he should be tried in the civil court?

**Mr. Claxton:** That is very frequently done by magistrates here, too.

**Mr. Hees:** I understand that by recent regulation a young man entering a service college or other educational institution to qualify for a commission is now allowed to count the time he spends in that educational institution as service time for pension rights. Has anything been done to permit a man who had graduated from one of the service colleges or educational institutions before this regulation was passed to count the time spent getting his education as service time for pension rights?

**Mr. Claxton:** No, they are not covered. The difference in the two cases lies in this, that those who were in the service colleges before were not members of the armed forces. They were cadets, and if they qualified and were selected to have commissions and chose to join the armed forces they did that subsequent to receiving their education. However, since last year we have instituted a new system under which cadets in service colleges and undergraduates in universities may join the armed forces and agree to serve for three years if they qualify for commissions; so that they are in exactly the same position as men in the ranks who were

[Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood).]

receiving commissions and they should of course count their service for pension and seniority.

**Mr. Hees:** Will the government give consideration to allowing men who had graduated before this regulation went into effect to count their time?

**Mr. Claxton:** No, because they were not bound to serve.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

**Mr. Claxton** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 332, respecting the Canadian forces.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE ACT**

PROVISION MAKING ELIGIBLE CERTAIN CROWN LANDS IN MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN

**Hon. Alphonse Fournier (for the Minister of Agriculture)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to provide that certain crown lands in Manitoba and Saskatchewan granted after December 31, 1940, be made eligible with respect to the assistance provided under the act.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** Mr. Chairman, before making this statement, may I say that I did consult experts in agriculture, in particular the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

I understand that under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act crown lands in Manitoba and Saskatchewan granted or sold after December 31, 1940, are not eligible for award. The purpose of this amendment is to make eligible the lands in the northern parts of these provinces as defined in the bill.

The second amendment would provide that a lease containing an option to sell is to be regarded as an agreement for sale. The result is that lands disposed of prior to December 31, 1940, under a lease-option agreement will be eligible for award even though the option is not taken up until after that date.

**Mr. Low:** Can the minister indicate the part of the provinces concerned? I am referring to the second amendment.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** I would not know without seeing the bill. I have not seen the bill, but I think the bill would contain that.