

Thursday, July 26, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

WAR TAX UPON INCOMES.

FIRST READING OF THE BILL.

Hon. Sir THOMAS WHITE (Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 117, to authorize the levying of a war tax upon certain incomes.

He said: This is the Bill founded on the resolution which I introduced yesterday.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

THE DOMINION LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

On the motion of Hon. W. J. Roche (Minister of the Interior), Bill No. 107, to amend the Dominion Lands Act, was read the second time, and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

On section 1—Cancellation and compensation for improvements.

Mr. OLIVER: This Bill contains a large number of details, and it may be that I have been remiss in not following up the work, but I would not like to be compelled to consider all these many details to-day, not having seen them before.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There is no need of going into any of those sections to which my hon. friend objects. We might run over the Bill and see what part is not controversial. There is no other business ready just at the moment.

Mr. OLIVER: Has the Bill been available to hon. members in the shape in which it is now laid on the Table.

Mr. ROCHE: It has been distributed.

Mr. OLIVER: When?

Mr. ROCHE: Only to-day.

Mr. OLIVER: That bears out my point. I was saying that the Bill contains a large number of details which require careful consideration before hon. members can be in a proper position to assent to or dissent from them. I would very much rather have had some little time to study these details before being compelled to take the Bill up and go through it in committee.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: No doubt the Minister of the Interior will agree that any of the sections as to which my hon. friend thinks further consideration will be necessary can stand, and the minister can give

his explanations which will assist my hon. friend in his consideration.

Mr. OLIVER: Under the circumstances, the Bill having just been distributed, it being a Bill of detailed amendment and we not having had an opportunity to compare it at considerable length with the present Act, we shall have to ask you, Sir, to be good enough to read each section.

1. Subsection two of section fifteen of The Dominion Lands Act, chapter twenty of the Statutes of 1908, is amended by inserting after the word "later" in the tenth line thereof, the words "or to any other person or persons adjudged by the minister to be entitled thereto as dependents of the former holder of the land," and by adding the following at the end thereof:

"The person who may subsequently secure the land, either under entry or by sale or otherwise, may be required to pay any and all amounts due for principal and interest then charged against such land for seed grain, fodder or other relief advanced by His Majesty to the former or any preceding entrant or holder of such land, in such manner as the minister may direct."

Mr. OLIVER: Will the minister give an explanation in regard to this amendment?

Mr. ROCHE: The members of the House will see that in the Bill as it has been distributed, in addition to the amendments that the Chairman has just read, there is in one column the reading of section 2 of the present Act and in the opposite column the reading of the section as it will be after amendment, the portion that has been added being in darker type. The explanation of the first change is to clothe the minister with authority to order that moneys collected for improvements made by a former entrant shall, instead of being refunded to the said former entrant, be paid to his wife. In many cases of desertion the woman is unable to obtain an assignment from her husband, although it may be shown in some instances that she has advanced money to her husband to effect improvements. As the law now stands, she has no redress.

There may be other cases where it would be advisable to make a refund to the father or mother or some other near relative of the former holder of the land, on proof being furnished that such relative is the person most entitled to receive the money.

The practice of the department, where the wife has been abandoned, is that after she has been abandoned for two years, she will be allowed to make entry for the land in her own name. At present the practice is that a woman who is allowed entry is supposed to have her residence count from