

own view would be that, so far as the ordinary denominations are concerned, no question can arise. The minister would determine whether or not they were organizations having for their object the matters mentioned in this subsection. It might occur that an association calling itself a church was collecting money improperly, and I think it should be for the minister to determine, in that case, whether it came under this Act or not. I think the House should assume that it would not be the object of the Government to make this Act an engine of oppression against these associations that are engaged in the laudable and most meritorious work of assisting sufferers in this war. But the Act would be administered in such a way as to prevent fraud, and at the same time not to retard the beneficial work of the Red Cross, Patriotic Fund, and the churches engaged in such charitable work and honestly administering any funds coming into their possession. If the House is to assume the minister will use this in some way oppressively, we could make an amendment to the Bill, but with the decision left in the hands of the minister, I think there would be no difficulty in working it out.

Mr. MACDONALD: This interpretation clause, which is the key note of the whole Act, is intended to deal with money which is used for the purpose of giving relief to those in suffering or in distress, or the supplying of needs or comforts to sufferers from the war, or to soldiers, returned soldiers, or their families or dependents, or any other charitable purpose connected with the present European war.

Moreover, the Bill leaves out of consideration the men who have enlisted in the Naval Service. Does the minister not think that the word "charity" is not a happy word to use in connection with work of this kind done for the soldiers?

Mr. NICKLE: "Benevolence" would be a better word.

Mr. MACDONALD: I object to the use of the word "charity" as descriptive of the work of organizations the object of which is to supply comforts to the soldiers. The people who do this work have not in their mind any idea of charity. This interpretation clause does not go far enough. It ought to provide that any fund organized in connection with war purposes should be subject to regulation and control. You do not need to regulate organizations whose members send socks and other comforts to the soldiers; you need to regulate the activities of men and women who decide to get

[Sir Thomas White.]

up new funds for purposes alleged to be in connection with the war.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I think the word "fund" would cover that.

Mr. MACDONALD: No, it would not. The interpretation clause is intended to regulate the activities of people whose work does not need any regulation. The persons who need regulation are those who say: We want to get up a fund to build a ship, present a gun—something of that kind, which has nothing to do with supplying needs or comforts to soldiers on service or returned soldiers.

Mr. NESBITT: I agree with my hon. friend in so far as his remarks relate to the raising of funds for ships and that kind of thing, but I do not agree that we should not regulate the so-called charitable organizations operated by people who collect subscriptions from individuals. We ought to control their activities in some way; I think that this Bill does cover such cases.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Subsection 2 of section 3 of this Bill provides:

This section shall not apply to any collection at divine service in a place of public worship.

This shows that all other work done by a church in the way of so-called war charities comes under the provisions of this Bill. The word "institution," therefore, as contained in the definition clause, is intended to include religious denominations.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Assuming that that is so—though I do not agree with my hon. friend—it does not appear to me that churches should be specially exempted. I stated some time ago that so far as ordinary denominations were concerned, I could not conceive how any question could arise; any fund that they would institute would be honestly and properly administered. But an association connected with some church might not so make its appeal or administer money raised; consequently I see no objection to bringing churches within the purview of the Act. The minister may exempt any war charity from registration under the Act. He may exempt, for example, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church, just as he can exempt the Red Cross or the Patriotic Fund.

Mr. McKENZIE: What does the minister say about that very worthy body, the Salvation Army? Suppose they held a concert