

Canada Prize Act

those who served in the army, navy and air force have now rehabilitated themselves in civilian life, and that they are quite prepared to have the money turned over to those less fortunate who may need it for some benevolent purpose.

Mr. Claxton: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: If the minister speaks now he will close the debate.

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I have only one or two words to say. In the first place I should like to assure the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) that I made most careful inquiries of the navy and at national defence headquarters, and it was not possible to find that in any recruiting publicity the holding out of the possibility of prize money was used as an inducement to men to enlist. Therefore, so far as we have been able to ascertain, there was no holding out of such an inducement. I should like to suggest to the hon. member with all respect that the nature of his own comment on this subject indicates how little seriousness there is in the opposition to the move we are now making when it is put in terms, even facetiously, that payment to individuals would be justified because in a sense it might equalize the possibility in the army of obtaining some loot. I hope the hon. member was not very serious about that. If I may say so, it indicates the level of the arguments put forward by those who have opposed this measure. I venture to say I have seen more of the officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy during the last three years than most hon. members, and I have taken every possible opportunity to discuss with them what was their own desire with regard to this measure. I can assure hon. members that I have not as yet come face to face with an officer or man who felt that the right way to deal with this was a way which everyone in this house admits is out of date. The resolutions and letters that have been sent to us are very largely limited to one locality in Canada.

I do not believe for a moment that any principle whatever is involved in this. There has been no holding out, no inducement; the question is how this money, which is a windfall, may be best disposed of in the interests of the officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy. In adopting this course we have not satisfied everyone, but we have proceeded as the great majority of the men who served at sea would like us to proceed; that is, for the benefit of those of their comrades who are less well off than some of the others.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

[Mr. Cavers.]

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to on division, and bill read the second time.

Mr. Claxton: If I have consent I move:

That Bill No. 221, an act to provide for the payment and distribution of prize money, be referred to the special committee appointed to consider Bill No. 133, an act respecting national defence, and that the committee be empowered to consider the said Bill No. 221.

Motion agreed to.

CUSTOMS TARIFF

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (for the Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of Bill No. 210, to amend the Customs Tariff.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Dion in the chair.

On section 1—*Where duty does not exceed 15 per cent ad valorem.*

Mr. Sinclair: Perhaps I might say just a few words of explanation in the beginning. If hon. members will refer back to the ways and means resolutions, they will find that the ways and means resolution on the customs tariff is almost exactly identical with this bill. While a resolution usually sets out the general intent of the bill only, that is not possible in the customs tariff resolution, because there has to be specific reference to the items that are to be changed; and if you compare the ways and means resolution with the important sections of this bill you will find them exactly the same, with the exception of section 2. In the resolution there were three subclauses, which here have been consolidated into two; I shall deal with that when we come to the section.

In view of the fact that we had a very long discussion on each clause in the resolution stage, and the fact that this bill is identical with the resolution, I do not see that anything is to be gained by repeating what I said at that time. However, since this is the second of the tax bills, perhaps at this time I should answer the one question which was unanswered at the time we discussed the excise tax bill. The hon. member for Peterborough West and the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox asked at that time whether this prepared whipping cream which was being exempt from sales tax was just 30 per cent cream. I have made inquiries and find that it is cream of 30 per cent butterfat, so it is all cream. The hon. member for Danforth asked whether steps were being taken to ensure that this concession was extended only to real dairy products, and not to products which were either adulterated with vegetable oils or