

National Film Act

the board co-operated wholeheartedly, and the commissioner and his staff, in co-operation with the officers of the Department of Justice, worked with speed and determination with the result that the bill was prepared.

It was then necessary to make a decision as to whether it should be introduced at this late date or deferred until the next session. When all factors were considered, it was decided that hon. members should be given an opportunity of dealing with the bill even at this late date, and to enact legislation which would enable the board to operate in a sounder, more efficient manner to perform its basic function of interpreting Canada to Canadians and to other nations.

Mr. Cardiff: I do not know whether I am in order in asking this question now, but if not the minister will correct me.

Mr. Winters: If the questions are detailed I would suggest that we wait until the committee stage, if that is acceptable to the hon. member.

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

On section 1—*Short title.*

Mr. Cardiff: What was the total revenue received in 1949 from the sale or lease of the "Canada Carries On" series, in Canada? When the minister has answered that I will ask another question.

Mr. Winters: The net revenue last year from the series "Canada Carries On" in Canada was \$6,430.40.

Mr. Cardiff: And what was received from outside Canada?

Mr. Winters: For the "Canada Carries On" series the revenue was very small. The total theatrical revenue received last year was \$21,271. As I explained when the estimates were before the committee, "Canada Carries On" is not carried as a series outside Canada.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—*Definitions.*

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): Would the minister tell us what is going to be the fate of the accounts receivable mentioned in the film board report? Apparently there is some \$43,689 in unpaid accounts which have been outstanding for more than a year, including some \$2,000 odd which is more than five years overdue. Will the board be given power to write off these accounts if they are uncollectable, or will it try to collect them?

Mr. Winters: We have been trying to collect these accounts and in fact have collected some. Under the act we are seeking authority for the board to write off these old, uncollectable accounts.

Section agreed to.

Sections 3 to 8 inclusive agreed to.

On section 9—*Purposes for which board established.*

Mr. McLure: Under this section I see the object and purpose of the board is to promote the production and distribution of films designed to make Canada known to Canadians and to the people of other countries. In this connection I want to deal with a little matter that was overlooked some time ago when we were going through the minister's estimates. For the advertising of the national park in Prince Edward Island to the outside world the greatest credit must go to a famous authoress, Lucy Maude Montgomery, who made known to the world not only her home of Cavendish but the province at large. I should like to know from the minister whether there is any co-operation between the provincial government and his department in reference to historic sites or memorials to outstanding people in Prince Edward Island.

When the national park was purchased by the provincial government and handed over to the federal government, with it was purchased the birthplace of that well-known lady. Now I understand that as a result of unsatisfactory arrangements between the provincial government and this department, this property has been sold to a private individual, and the people of that section of the country are very much up in arms about it. They understood this property was still in the hands of the national park people, which would bring it under this item of resources. Now that they know it has been sold they are organizing a movement to see if they cannot get the federal government to buy back this property and make it into what it should be, an attraction for tourists coming to that part of the country.

I should like to know from the minister, if he has any information on the subject, whether the provincial government sold this property without notice to the federal government, because it was generally understood that this quaint old building was in a part of the national park that had been handed over to the federal government. The people generally throughout Prince Edward Island resent the fact that this property was sold with no one knowing anything about it with the exception of the provincial govern-