

*Canada Lands Surveys Act*  
**CANADA LANDS SURVEYS ACT**

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING REMUNERATION OF  
 EXAMINERS

**Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys)** moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Canada Lands Surveys Act to provide that the members of the board of examiners shall be remunerated on an annual basis; also to authorize the treasury board to fix the fees to be paid to special examiners.

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

**Mr. Prudham:** Mr. Chairman, briefly the purpose of this resolution is to introduce a bill to amend the Canada Lands Surveys Act in so far as the remuneration of the members of the board of examiners for dominion land surveyors and the secretary thereof is concerned, and in so far as the fees to the special examiners who are appointed under the act are concerned. The first board of examiners was established some 81 years ago in 1875 under the authority of the Dominion Lands Act of that date. Over the years there has been a need for amendments to the act to meet changing conditions, and this resolution proposes another change to bring the method of payment of the board of examiners into line with conditions as we find them today.

In looking over the files it has been very interesting to follow the reasons for the changes that have been made from time to time. I think it would be advisable to put a statement on the record so that in future years it will be there for reference, and although this would probably be more properly made on second reading of the bill I should like to put it on the record now.

By the first amendment it is intended to remunerate the members of the board and the secretary on an annual basis rather than by a daily fee as now provided under section 7 of the act, which fee is conditional upon the attendance of the board members and of the secretary at meetings of the board called for the purpose of examining candidates, or for any other purpose, or who attends as a special examiner at an examination. A great portion of the work required from each member of the board consists of the setting and marking of examination papers, which work is done by each member individually. The members of the board hold a certificate of the highest class and, in addition to being dominion land surveyors, are also dominion topographical surveyors, which

owing to the fact that so many of these veterans realize that it is hopeless to make an application. I still think there are many who would like to avail themselves of this act in order to become established in business. I should certainly like to see further serious consideration given to an extension of the period in which the act is effective.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Is a Korean veteran who re-enlists in the regular army still entitled to make application for this loan, no matter how many times he may re-enlist in the regular army?

**Mr. Lapointe:** I understand that is the present position.

**Mr. Brooks:** When would his time commence? Suppose he was in the army for eight or ten years. Can he make application after he is discharged from the army and then continue for another period of ten years?

**Mr. Lapointe:** There seems to be a conflict there. As a matter of fact, that matter is being considered at the present time. If it is necessary that changes be made, it is proposed to make them.

**Mr. Pearkes:** Then in reply to my question in which I referred to a man who re-enlisted, the answer is that it is not definite that he can get a loan now? Can I get an answer instead of a nod of the head?

**Mr. Bennett:** Mr. Chairman, the Korean veteran is entitled, as I understand it, to the benefit of this act upon his discharge because this act reads "ten years after his discharge". The fact that he is discharged makes him entitled to the benefits of this act. That seems to give him in some cases the preference over some other veterans. As the minister says, that question is being considered at the present time. The man who kept on with his service after the Korean war, as I say, by the fact that he takes his discharge later on may become entitled to the benefits of this act because this act says "ten years after the date of discharge". As the minister says, the matter is presently being considered and there may be amendments to bring them more in line with the way that other veterans were treated if that is necessary. But of course hon. members will be given notice of them.

**Mr. Pearkes:** It will be borne in mind that there are still troops in Korea?

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Lapointe (for Mr. Harris)** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 253, to amend the Veterans Business and Professional Loans Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.