

SALARIES BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 10, an Act to amend the Salaries Act.

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This Bill is consequential to the one we have just been discussing. Second reading at the next sitting of the House.

WAR CHARITIES BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 11, an Act relating to War Charities.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators, I wonder whether we could not dispose of this Bill now. It has been drafted on the basis of the War Charities Act of 1917, with changes suggested by the experience gained in the administration of that Act.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: We have not got copies of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I shall state the purpose of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I object to the Bill being read before I have a copy of it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Bill says:

"War Charity Fund" means any fund having for its objects or among its objects the supplying of needs or comforts or the relief of suffering or distress for the benefit of the personnel of the armed forces of Canada or the families or dependents of any of them or of any other sufferers from the present war, or any other charitable purpose connected with the war.

3. (1) It shall be an offence under this Act,

(a) directly or indirectly to solicit or make any appeal to the public for donations or subscriptions in money or in kind for any War Charity Fund, or to raise or attempt to raise money for any War Charity Fund by promoting or conducting any bazaar, sale, entertainment or exhibition, or by soliciting for advertising or by any other means, unless the War Charity Fund is registered under this Act;

(b) to make or attempt to make any collection for any War Charity Fund unless with the authorization in writing of the officer duly designated in accordance with paragraph (d) of subsection two of section four of this Act to authorize collections for such War Charity Fund;

(2) This section shall not apply to any collection at Divine service in a place of public worship;

4. (1) The Minister, on application of any person, association or institution under whose auspices it is proposed to raise a War Charities Fund, may grant registration thereof upon his being satisfied:—

* (a) that adequate provision has been made for its establishment and control in accordance with such regulations as may be made from time to time under the authority of section eight of this Act;

(b) that there is reason to believe that its specific purpose is not already satisfied;

(c) that the application for registration is made in good faith.

(2) The Minister shall keep a register of all War Charities Funds, etc.

I had forgotten about the legislation of 1917, but I now remember that all kinds of organizations were springing up. They had to be controlled, and legislation similar to this was enacted for the protection of the public. I should think my right honourable friend would remember that legislation.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, quite well.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think it is absolutely necessary to prevent some evilly disposed persons from taking advantage of the emotions created by war and devising various schemes to raise money, not all of which would reach the persons for whom it appeared to be destined.

If my right honourable friend has no objection, I will move the second reading of the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: We might give the Bill second reading now and take third reading to-morrow.

Bills are coming over here at the rate of one a minute. I cannot understand it at all. It is utterly absurd. I do not like, and I am sure other honourable members do not like, to see this House passing legislation which we have had no opportunity to read. Why there should be such a rush in the Commons to get home I cannot imagine. I think we should sit to-morrow and thoroughly study all these measures, no matter what the Commons may want.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Shall we take the second reading now?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: And the third reading to-morrow. We certainly should have a Bill of this kind.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.