

been formed in Winnipeg a short time after the Fenian Raid. After the Northwest Rebellion an amalgamation was made, and they called themselves the Army and Navy Veterans. Since this war started they have rendered very efficient services. They have recruited, through their organization, over 5,600 men—over five battalions. Three years ago they secured a provincial charter in Manitoba. There are branches of this organization all over Canada. They are asking now for a Dominion charter. They have done splendid work. The Bill has been examined very thoroughly in the Senate and before the House of Commons Committee.

Mr. OLIVER: Are there any special powers or provisions in the Bill?

Mr. BRADBURY: I do not think so. The incorporators are: Major-General John Hughes, Major-General Henry N. Ruttan, Captain Sir Hugh John Macdonald, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Daniel Hunter McMillan, Judge David Marr Walker, Lieutenant-Colonel George Frederick Carruthers, J. Hilliard Leech, K.C., Major George F. R. Harris, Judge George Patterson, Lieutenant William Allen Shepard, and a number of others. The objects of the Bill are: To unite fraternally all persons who have served as soldiers or sailors under the British flag, and are entitled to become members under the constitution and by-laws of the association, into a body of retired soldier and sailor veterans of a non-partisan and non-sectarian character, for purposes of good-fellowship, mutual improvement and assistance, and patriotic endeavour and service to the Empire;

To increase the public influence of veterans by organization, by parades and by giving as an entity expressions of opinion upon public questions affecting the rights of veterans or concerning the welfare of the whole or any part of the Empire;

To stimulate the spirit of patriotism in Canada and to promote, on sound and enduring principles of equality of rights, a Greater Britain, by a closer unity and co-ordination of the Overseas Dominions with the Mother Country;

To assist the Empire when occasion requires in enlisting recruits for His Majesty's forces;

To acquire, maintain and operate clubs, homes, and meeting places for the benefit of veterans, and to furnish, stock and equip the same with such furniture, furnishings, plant, animals, implements, equipment appliances, libraries, and means of entertain-

ment and amusement, as may by the association be considered desirable.

Mr. MACDONALD: Practically all the incorporators reside in Winnipeg. What relation has this proposed incorporation to the association of veterans of the present war being formed in portions of the Dominion east of Winnipeg?

Mr. BRADBURY: Not any. It is a different association altogether.

Mr. MACDONALD: Has the situation of the men who are veterans in the present war been considered, with relation to this association? It would seem to me, with all deference to the character of the men mentioned as incorporators—and one can take no exception to them—that if it were a Dominion-wide organization it would be better to have such an organization, which will have the impress of Parliament upon it, more widely representative of the different provinces of the Dominion. The effect of this legislation is to create an incorporated body of army and navy veterans in Canada, with the incorporators residing wholly in Winnipeg. The Association is Dominion-wide in its character. We should have people from all the provinces connected with it. No one can take exception to the general purport of the measure. I can foresee a difficulty which might arise from some of the men definitely connected with the present war, who might say: "We want incorporation." Although it would not necessarily conflict with other associations, yet this would put the Parliamentary impress upon a body purely local in its character.

Mr. BRADBURY: It is the purpose to have organizations all over the country, and they have many of them now. They have branches in Ottawa and Toronto, and in every town in the North West. It is the old organization, and all they are asking is for Dominion authority. They have been doing very useful work.

Mr. MACDONALD: I am not taking exception to that. My hon. friend misapprehends my point. Organizations have been formed in different places throughout Canada by men who have served in the army and navy during the present war. The names of these bodies are pretty much the same as the name of this proposed organization. Has this measure been approved by the men who are veterans of the present war and amongst whom organizations have been formed in the eastern provinces?