

informative and instructive. There was never any lead given by the government in that connection.

Mr. CHURCH: The committee should be abolished. It has done nothing all session.

SOIL PIPE

SHORTAGE IN TORONTO AREA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. J. McILRAITH (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): Yesterday the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Timmins) asked a question with regard to the production of soil pipe. His question was as follows:

Having regard for the shortage of soil pipe in the city of Toronto, has the government taken any action to increase production?

Major action has been taken to stimulate increased production of cast iron soil pipe and fittings during the latter part of 1946 and the first six months of 1947 as follows.

Arrangements are in operation to channel sufficient pig iron to enable the producers to operate at plant capacity. Arrangements have further been completed for a continuing flow of pig iron to meet increased production facilities during 1947. Price increases have been granted to the industry to compensate for increased costs of production.

Assistance has been given to individual producers in obtaining necessary equipment from War Assets Corporation which could not be obtained elsewhere or in time to facilitate early increased production. A submission by a major producer to expand production facilities at their plants for the production specifically of cast iron soil pipe and fittings was approved and a programme has been in operation since the first of January which provides an incentive bonus on increased production over and above the base rate established as normal production capacity at the end of 1946.

Results of these actions, by way of increased production throughout the industry, showed up early in the year. The total production of cast iron soil pipe and fittings in 1946 was approximately 2,100 tons per month, or slightly over 25,000 tons. The production during the first five months of 1947 averaged approximately 2,800 tons per month, or at the rate of 33,600 tons per year. With further expansion of facilities, it is estimated that approximately 35,000 tons will be produced in Canada during 1947, or a 40 per cent increase over 1946.

INCOME WAR TAX ACT

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance) moved the second reading of and concurrence in amendments made by the senate to Bill No. 269, to amend the Income War Tax Act.

Motion agreed to; amendments read the second time and concurred in.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

ESTABLISHMENT FROM ARMY CANTEEN AND OTHER SERVICE FUNDS—PROVISION FOR BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Hon. BROOKE CLAXTON (Minister of National Defence) moved the second reading of Bill No. 410, to establish a benevolent fund from army canteen and other service funds.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. CLAXTON: Mr. Chairman, before this clause carries I think a short statement should be made. On February 26 of this year I moved for the appointment of a special committee to look into the question of the disposition of canteen funds. Those funds originated through profits made in the sale of various supplies through canteens and through other similar sources entirely related to the Canadian Army. The committee was set up and I think hon. members will have observed with satisfaction the composition of the committee in that nine of its members had served in the second world war, twelve in the first world war, and three in both wars. This was not the first committee set up to deal with canteen funds. A committee had been set up on August 30, 1941, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. M. Macdonnell, then in private life but now the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario. A parliamentary committee was created by resolution of this house on March 24, 1942, and it had a great number of meetings under the genial and efficient chairmanship of the Deputy Speaker who is now presiding over this committee of the whole, the hon. member for Brantford City. That committee made its report on July 22, 1942. Generally speaking, army canteen funds have since been administered by the regimental funds board in accordance with the reports of these committees.