

THE SENATE

Saturday, December 10, 1949

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 222, an Act to amend The Canadian Red Cross Society Act.

The bill was read the first time.

MOTION FOR SECOND READING

Hon. J. G. Turgeon moved the second reading of the bill.

He said: Honourable senators, as you know, the delay in bringing this bill before this chamber is due to the fact that it has come only this moment from the other place.

The bill contains several proposed changes.

Hon. Mr. Leger: Has this bill been distributed?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: No, it has just this moment come from the other place. As a matter of fact, I have been informed that the bill was not distributed in the other place when it was dealt with and finally passed there yesterday evening.

I read now from section 3:

The said Act is further amended by adding thereto the following section:

9. The name of the society in the French language shall be "La Societe canadienne de la Croix-Rouge."

According to the explanatory note, this amendment is required to sanction the use of "La Societe canadienne de la Croix-Rouge" as the name of the Canadian Red Cross Society in the French language. I have been informed that up to the present time the use of the French title, while being correct and justified, has had no legal foundation.

Hon. Mr. Leger: Will you read the amendment again?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: It reads:

The said act is further amended by adding thereto the following section:

9. The name of the society in the French language shall be "La Societe canadienne de la Croix-Rouge".

There are two or three other amendments. One of these is to remove the limitation which the present Act imposes upon the value of property that the Canadian Red Cross Association may hold. This is necessary, partly because of the rise in the cost of the

value of land, partly because of the extension of the Canadian Red Cross Service to our new province of Newfoundland, and very largely because of the great extension of the blood transfusion and other services of the Red Cross. These are the reasons suggested for the removal of the ceiling on the value of property which the Association may hold.

Hon. Mr. Paterson: May I ask the honourable senator from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) what the former value was? What was the limit?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: The present Act provides:

The annual value of the real estate held in Canada by or in trust for the society shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

Another amendment is for the purpose of giving increased representation on the central body to the various governing divisions. The present section says:

The governing body of the society shall be a central council, consisting of not more than forty members appointed or elected in such manner as may be determined from time to time by the central council.

This has been changed to read:

The governing body of the society shall be a central council, consisting of not more than sixty members appointed or elected in such manner as may be determined from time to time by the central council.

The number of members is increased from forty to sixty, the idea being to give the various central divisions greater representation, and, naturally, more authority.

In the main, these are the changes that are proposed to the Canadian Red Cross Society Act as it now exists.

Hon. Mr. Nicol: Can the honourable gentleman tell us what is the annual value of the society's asset?

Hon. Mr. Turgeon: I am sorry that I cannot answer that question. As a matter of fact, it is less than 20 minutes since I was asked to handle the bill, and there are many points on which I have not been able to get information. I was very happy to be given the opportunity of sponsoring the bill in the Senate, not only because of the great service that the society has long been rendering throughout this country, but particularly because of the relief work that it did after two recent floods in the province of British Columbia—one, during the present session of parliament; and the other, two years ago.

The honourable gentleman asks what is the annual value of the property held by the society. I presume it is the permissible limit of \$100,000, though I do not know. I regret very much that I cannot answer the question.