

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: In the House of Commons Hansard of September 11, at page 135, the Minister of National Defence gives an explanation of the classes. What he says there does not seem as clear as the statement of the honourable senator behind me (Hon. Mr. Griesbach). From the Minister's remarks it would appear that the field force is not under absolute obligation to serve overseas. But he says:

If in the light of developments in the future the Government policy should be that of sending an expeditionary force overseas, that reserve force—

He calls it a reserve force, not a field force.—would be the nucleus of the force so to be sent.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand the term "reserve force," but I do not know what is meant by "field force." Since I am not in my own element here, I will not express any opinion about the matter, but will refer the whole discussion to the Minister of National Defence.

Hon. C. E. TANNER: Honourable senators, if I heard the honourable leader of the House correctly, he suggested that a statement might be made in the other Chamber in explanation of the points that are being discussed here, and probably other points as well. I should like to suggest that we ought to get a little nearer to first-hand information. To my mind, this is not a time to stand on formality at all. I feel sure that honourable members on both sides of the House desire to be of use—to serve. But for that purpose we must have some knowledge of what is being done by the Government. I consider it would be a calamity that honourable members should go home with as little knowledge as they have to-day about the Government's policies and actions.

What I have in mind is that some arrangement ought to be made whereby the Minister who is responsible for these matters would come into the Senate and talk to us directly. There is no reason in the world why we should not have a closed meeting here, if necessary, or an adjournment during pleasure, so that the Minister could talk freely and answer honourable members' questions as fully as he can. We want to know. With all due respect to my honourable friend who is leading the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), I should say that he may not desire to load himself up with all the details which the Minister of National Defence has in his possession.

I think it must be admitted that as to steps taken to organize what is called the defence of Canada we are all in a dense fog. We do not know anything about them. I, for

instance, who come from Nova Scotia, have not been able to get the faintest bit of news about what has been done to protect, say, the harbour of Halifax, with its great oil, sugar and other industries. I understand that a flotilla of five British warships is down there, but I am entirely in the dark as to what our own Government have done. Nor have I been able to discover what measures of protection are available for the great coal and steel industries in Cape Breton and elsewhere. We want to be informed as to what the Government are doing all over the country. I think I am expressing the opinion of all honourable members when I say that we desire information, not for purposes of criticism, but as a means of helping us to co-operate more fully with the Government in these important matters.

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

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Does my right honourable friend desire us to go into committee on the Bill?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No.

### THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

### BUSINESS OF PARLIAMENT

#### WITHDRAWAL OF COMBINES INVESTIGATION BILL

On the motion to adjourn during pleasure:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable senators, yesterday I read a list of measures which it had been intended to bring down in the other House. Among them was one to amend the Combines Investigation Act. I am informed that after a discussion in that House, from which it appeared that the powers sought by the Government in this Bill were fully contained in the War Measures Act, the Minister withdrew the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Budget is being discussed in the Commons at the present time. I would move that the Senate adjourn during pleasure, in order that I may endeavour to learn whether there is any likelihood of having this measure before us at 8 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.