

especially for the purpose of war charity would be covered by the Act, and that registration would be necessary. My hon. friend from North Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) has referred to such organizations as the Daughters of the Empire and others of a national character, which are recognized as responsible and whose energy throughout the whole of this war is greatly to be commended. Amendments might be made which would greatly improve the Bill in respect to such matters as have just been referred to, so that it should not apply to such organizations as the Daughters of the Empire, or to funds raised under the direction of a church organization.

I think it would put the churches to unnecessary trouble, and would, to some extent, retard voluntary efforts in charities, even if registration were necessary, or legal dispensation, or whatever might be provided. I think, generally speaking, organization for charities of this kind, where they are under the direct control of the church or under the direct control of some national organization such as the Daughters of the Empire, might be defined rigidly, and recognized branches of a national order of that kind might be properly defined. Notwithstanding that, I think we must admit that there is a real necessity for putting some curb on the efforts of unscrupulous individuals to collect funds from the public, presumably for purposes of war charities, and yet directly for the purpose of defrauding the public. I think the Bill, with the object it has in view is desirable, but I think it is crudely drawn to cover these objects, and would be a very troublesome Bill to administer. It might be amended in committee to cover the necessities of the case. In its present shape, I do not think it meets the requirements of the country.

Mr. GRAHAM: It may be that, in a measure, I should assume some responsibility for the introduction of this Bill, because in the discussion I think, of the taxation proposals I made the statement that there ought to be some regulation of the various appeals to the people. It appeared that too many people were passing the hat, and that all the good was not accomplished that might be accomplished by constant appeals to the people for a little subscription to this and a little subscription to that, some contributors who might give large amounts being satisfied with giving but very little to minor subscriptions. I agree with a good deal that has been said, and I do not know the legal effect of the Bill, but there should be some measure of

this kind, because I think it is, perhaps, more necessary this year than in former years. All the money we can raise should be devoted to the exact purpose for which the people intended it, namely, to carry on our charities, as well as our taxation contribution. There is a class of people—and they flourish very well under present conditions—who make a living by proposing to some of the local organizations to get up an entertainment for some purpose. The promoter of the entertainment will perhaps get 50 per cent and the local people 50 per cent, but the local people will pay the expenses.

Mr. NESBITT: Sixty—forty.

Mr. GRAHAM: The whole population takes part day after day, and night after night, and spend a lot of money privately getting ready for these things, with the result that when the returns come in the promoter gets \$500, the expenses are \$300 and the charity receives perhaps \$200. These things should be submitted to some authority to say what the terms are to be, and the conditions under which these entertainments are carried on, so that the people who contribute largely from the goodness of their heart, believing the money will go into some public good, will know that, outside of regular ordinary legitimate expenses, the money will go for the purposes to which they contributed it. I am in hearty accord with the purposes of the Bill, and I leave it to the legal gentlemen to get it in proper shape.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Subsection (b) of section 2 provides that any question as to whether a charity is a war charity shall be finally determined by the minister.

Mr. MACDONALD: I should like to find a precedent for putting in the interpretation clause the words "any question whether a charity is a charity shall be finally determined by the minister."

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I think it is in the Customs Act, and in certain of our taxation Acts. Such a question is often left to the minister, who is responsible to the Government, and the Government is responsible to the public, and no impropriety or irregularity is likely to result. It is difficult to specifically define by legislation what a war charity is. In order to prevent any hardship it is provided that the matter is finally left to the discretion of the minister. If a question arises as to whether a church is an association coming within subsection (b) of section 2, it is for the minister to determine. My