

National Defence

(5) to provide a right of appeal from the findings and sentences of courts martial;

(6) to abolish field general courts martial;

(7) to provide for a new trial on the discovery of new evidence;

(8) to provide in the administration of the department more efficient and expeditious means for the transaction of routine business:

(9) to establish the position and functions of the chiefs of staff;

(10) to abolish, as obsolete, provisions for levee en masse and enrolment by ballot; and

(11) to authorize the employment of regular forces to meet a national disaster, such as a major flood, and to permit the use of reserve forces for these purposes.

This measure, which will be introduced once the resolution is carried and the bill receives first reading, contains all the amendments made in the other place, and a number of minor technical changes proposed by the legal advisers of the government and of the department in consequence of subsequent study. However, these are not matters of substance, and can be explained in detail when the bill is before the committee.

I do ask the committee now if they would not agree to receive first reading of the bill so that it can be distributed. Our hope would be that for the reasons I have given there would not be too extensive a debate and we might proceed to the setting up of the committee before the session gets too well advanced, so that this very important bit of legislation can receive consideration at this session of parliament. If that course were accepted, following the second reading of the bill at some future date, we would propose to refer the prize money bill and the Militia Pension Act amendments to the same committee.

Mr. Pearkes: Mr. Chairman, it is our desire to co-operate with the government in facilitating the movement of this legislation by one step. Therefore I do not propose to make any extensive remarks today, on the understanding that when the bill is brought down for second reading there will be an opportunity for full discussion before it is submitted to the committee—

Mr. Claxton: Quite so.

Mr. Pearkes: —if the minister desires to send it to the committee—because there were one or two points in connection with the bill which was presented to the other house which at least require further explanation and elaboration.

[Mr. Claxton.]

Mr. Claxton: The hon. member's attitude is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Pearkes: We will facilitate it to that extent. Of course nothing can be said today regarding the decision to refer it to a committee.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Claxton thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 133, respecting national defence.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

DEFENCE SERVICES PENSIONS**METHOD OF COMPUTATION—CREATION OF SERVICE PENSION BOARD**

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a measure to amend the Militia Pension Act for the purpose of changing the title to "The Defence Services Pension Act"; removing anomalies and improving administration; changing the method of computing pensions and gratuities and establishing a service pension board to pass on requisitions for payment of pensions and gratuities.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: In view of the understanding arrived at previously, am I to understand that I shall report this resolution now?

Mr. Pearkes: On the understanding that there will be a full discussion on the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Claxton: Agreed.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Claxton thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 134, to amend the Militia Pension Act and change the title thereof.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADA PRIZE ACT**PROVISION FOR PAYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE MONEY**

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to provide for the payment and distribution of prize money out of prize money presently and prospectively in the consolidated revenue fund.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.