

but I think it is as well, as the law in the United States may be changed at any time, that a section should be added to make it perfectly clear that it is not intended to deprive distillers or brewers in this country of any opportunity of selling in the United States liquor which may be legally imported into that country. What I would propose is to make the present subsection three, subsection four and to insert the following subsection after subsection two, as subsection three:

(3) This section shall not apply to the exportation of any liquor for religious, medicinal, scientific or other purposes in any case in which the importation thereof for any such purpose is permitted by the law of the country into which importation is to be made.

Mr. STEVENS: That is the loophole.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hear the hon. member for Vancouver Centre saying, "this is the loophole". I just ask him to rise in his place and repeat that remark and I will withdraw this amendment.

Mr. STEVENS: I will gladly tell my hon. friend just what I am referring to. If he will turn back to the records of the special committee of the house, he will find where hundreds of thousands of gallons of alcohol were shipped by the Dominion Distillers alone. His government had a suit for \$900,000 of defaulted excise tax on that liquor shipped to the United States under the laws of the United States for purposes similar to those cited in the suggested amendment. It was one of the most prolific avenues of evasion of both Canadian and United States laws. That is what I am referring to, and the amendment suggested leaves that avenue wide open.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I need hardly say that no thought of that kind could have been further from my mind. In view of what my hon. friend has said I withdraw the amendment.

Amendment withdrawn.

Subsection (3) agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT: Before the right hon. gentleman leaves the matter, I should like to point out that the language of what is known as the eighteenth amendment is this:

(1) After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

(2) The congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

(3) This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the congress.

It is no longer necessary to discuss it, but the right hon. gentleman will find it discussed in the statement on intoxicating liquors issued by the United States Treasury Department in January 1930.

Section 1 as amended agreed to.

Mr. CAHAN: On an important measure like this, should the committee not report progress and have the bill reprinted in the meantime so that we may see clearly how the amendments appear and the exact meaning of them? I doubt whether any hon. member knows the exact bearing of the amendments that have been proposed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is practically no amendment now.

Mr. BENNETT: I think it is customary where you have a bill of this character which is of far-reaching consequences, not to take it out of committee at once, but rather to let the committee have an opportunity of considering it in the light of the amendments. That has usually been the course in regard to a public bill of great importance such as this. I have no wish to delay it, but I think that course is desirable. We can get it out of committee to-morrow and give it third reading.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend will agree to third reading to-morrow, I have no objection.

Mr. BENNETT: I am speaking only for myself and those associated with me. I cannot speak for any other group in the house.

Progress reported.

MILITIA PENSION ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. JAMES MALCOLM (Acting Minister of National Defence) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Militia Pension Act to provide that pension may be granted to the widow of any officer who, at the time of his death being on full pay, dies after a period at which a pension might be granted to him, or who was at the time of his death in receipt of a pension.

Mr. CAHAN: Should we not have some explanation of the meaning of this?