

Hon. Mr. COTE: Since I spoke a few moments ago I have read the section over again, and I find that the benefits of the Bill are not limited to the original settler. Under the Bill as it now reads the second settler, or even a third, would benefit.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: It could not be otherwise.

Hon. Mr. COTE: I am not referring to the successor of the first settler, for there may be an argument in his favour. What I have in mind is the case where the board has taken the land from the original settler and resold it to someone else. The later purchaser in that case would benefit too.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This amendment deals with the right of the original settler to get all that the board bought for him. The State, as represented by the board, dispossessed itself at one time of all that was in and under the ground. It sold the rights, and these passed into the hands of an individual. That party, who owed nothing to the Crown, had a clear title, and could sell his piece of land with all that pertained to it, the sub-soil as well as what was on the surface. When the State sold in the first place it sold the minerals, and I cannot for one moment believe that it would seek to get paid twice for them. The purchaser from the State could resell the land and give a full title to it, including the minerals. The point facing the board is that it sold to original settlers who had full titles to not only the land, but also the minerals. I ask my right honourable friend: Can the State claim back what it has sold?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: When the land that was sold has been bought back by the State, the position is the same as if the sale had never been made. The statement of mine which was quoted is no doubt correct. I will say this, that after twenty-one years of hard work, experience and much chastening, I could not express it better to-day.

Hon. Mr. COTE: I should like—

The Hon. the ACTING SPEAKER: Just a moment, please. It seems to me, honourable senators, that this discussion is entirely out of order. The second reading was passed, and no motion is now before the House. A suggestion was made for a reference to a committee, and discussion followed. Before there is any further discussion, a motion should be made.

Hon. Mr. COTE: I move that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: That committee is busy.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I think we shall be here till next fall.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: We must not lose sight of what I regard as the chief objection to this measure. That was referred to by the right honourable leader on this side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) the other day. This law has been in operation for twenty or more years, and all that time the mineral rights on these lands have been reserved to the Crown. Now, I cannot help thinking that some pressure is behind this Bill. I do not know what it is or where it comes from, but if there is to be a reference to a committee I should like an inquiry as to the reasons why the measure is brought down after all these years. Some one or two or more individuals must have found out there are valuable minerals under their land, and in order to get title they are acting in such a way as to see that this legislation goes through. That is only in my imagination. I cannot see any other reason.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If my honourable friend will read the memorandum which I have presented to the House he will find the reason which actuated the department. If, however, there is the least suspicion there may be some private interest behind this measure, I agree to its being sent to the Banking and Commerce Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

#### FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT BILL

##### PROPOSED CONFERENCE WITH COMMONS

The Hon. the ACTING SPEAKER: Honourable senators, a message has been received from the House of Commons reading as follows:

Resolved that a message be sent to the Senate respectfully requesting a free conference with Their Honours to consider a certain amendment made by the Senate to Bill No. 25, an Act to amend The Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, 1934, to which amendment this House has not agreed and upon which the Senate insists, and any amendment which at such conference it may be considered desirable to make to said Bill or amendments thereto.

When shall this resolution be taken into consideration?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Next sitting of the House.

#### DEBTS DUE TO THE CROWN BILL

##### PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Debts Due to the Crown Bill was referred to a special committee to be appointed by the two leaders.