

continued under the board or merged in a ministry as the occasion and circumstances demand, and as the experience gained may warrant.

I have given this explanation so that honourable members may understand the purport of the Bill.

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable members, I think we shall in the long run lose very little time if we postpone the second reading of this Bill until to-morrow. We could more easily follow the explanation given by the honourable leader if we had had an opportunity before hand to peruse this lengthy measure. I should at least like to look it over.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: The question has not yet been put.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: Oh, I beg pardon.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: It is moved by Honourable Mr. Dandurand, seconded by the Right Honourable Mr. Graham, that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: I apologize to His Honour the Speaker for having risen at the wrong time, but the remarks I have already made still apply. I should like to see this Bill postponed until to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: At what hour?

Hon. Mr. BLACK: That matter is in the hands of the Chair.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have no objection to meeting the request of my honourable friend, though I may say we are not working under any more difficult conditions than the House of Commons, which received this Bill only at ten o'clock this evening. That does not mean we shall not take more time to examine it than that House did. It is intended that the Senate shall convene again at ten-thirty in the morning. I presume my honourable friend will rise early and digest the Bill before coming to the House.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The Bill certainly should stand until to-morrow. I am astonished that it passed through the other House in a matter of minutes. It is a very important measure and really ought to go to committee. As I understand it, the Bill provides for the calling into being of a Department of Munitions which will supplant the present Defence Purchasing Board. The poor members of that Board have hardly got their seats warm yet.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The war came upon them too fast.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The Board came into existence as a result of a recommendation which arose out of embarrassments surrounding a certain war contract. They have just got the glory of that around their heads.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Perhaps I was a little hasty in saying the board would disappear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Surely we are not going to have for this purpose both a department and a Defence Purchasing Board.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: They moved into a new building just this week.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: And now they are going out the window.

I have looked through the Bill, and can see at least one merit which evidences a certain degree of education on the part of the Government. There is no five-per-cent clause in this Bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Black, the debate was adjourned.

SALARIES BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 10, an Act to amend the Salaries Act.

The Bill was read the first time.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This Bill is consequential to the one we have just been discussing. Second reading at the next sitting of the House.

WAR CHARITIES BILL

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 11, an Act relating to War Charities.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators, I wonder whether we could not dispose of this Bill now? It has been drafted on the basis of the War Charities Act of 1917, with changes suggested by the experience gained in the administration of that Act.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: We have not got copies of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I shall state the purpose of the Bill.