

another in giving away that which should be compensation for the services which they render, and as a result they have to be reimbursed in some other way, which lays a heavy burden upon the insurer or the insured and prevents uniformity being maintained. Without a law of this kind we cannot maintain a low level of insurance rates.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: If the agent has to be reimbursed in some other way I can understand the necessity of such a provision; but if he is giving up something to which he is entitled, I do not see why we should interfere. Is this a new clause?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, it is clause 508 D. This is practically a transfer of the clause to the Criminal Code.

Section 508 D was agreed to.

The Bill was reported, read the third time, and passed.

#### WAR-TIME ELECTIONS BILL.

##### SECOND READING MOVED—DEBATE ADJOURNED.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of Bill 133, the War-time Elections Act.

He said: In moving the second reading of this Bill, which is very properly entitled the War-time Elections Act, I need scarcely say that, from a perusal of the Bill, honourable gentlemen will readily observe that it is somewhat of a departure from established lines. This is not to be unexpected. All measures of this nature, growing out of a condition of war, are approached with more or less caution and sometimes with distrust; but the conditions with which we have been confronted since the beginning of the present war have familiarized us with the principle that extraordinary conditions require extraordinary measures. In dealing with such measures, particularly those affecting the usages and practices of Parliament, we sometimes forget that most of the usages which we look upon to-day as being bulwarks of the constitution originated in times of national upheaval, storm and stress; and so the conditions we are facing to-day compel us to place upon the statute-book measures of an extraordinary character with which many honourable gentlemen are not in sympathy. In considering measures of this character, it is quite natural that there should be a difference of opinion between the Government and its critics or oppon-

ents. In the first place, the Government of the day is charged with the administration of government under very trying circumstances. They find an upheaval, not only in public opinion, but in respect to almost every condition of life, by reason of the titanic struggle in which the whole world is now engaged. In the beginning of the war we were called upon to adopt measures to meet the military requirements of the moment and all the exigencies which arose, and we approached that situation with great caution, with some distrust, and with much uncertainty. As the war proceeded, we realized that war is ruthless—that there is no condition in life so ruthless as a state of war. Hence those charged with the responsibility of administering government in war-time very soon realize that the conventions which restrain us under normal conditions, and the sanctity with which we regard the traditions which we have venerated for generations, are not to stand in the way of our meeting the situation which faces us, and which has been brought about by war conditions which they cannot avoid. The critics of the Government, no matter what that Government may be, have not the same experience, through observation, or through actual knowledge of the situation that has to be met, as the Government has. Therefore there are two viewpoints in regard to the legislation which we are called upon to enact from time to time in order to deal with war conditions.

It is not unexpected that the Government of the day has to prepare a Franchise Act, and that that Franchise Act may possibly not meet the views of its more critical opponents. In the early part of this session the Government anticipated that it would not be called upon during the present session to bring down any legislation looking to the holding of a general election. There was an expectation, and properly so, that Parliament would be fairly well united upon the necessity of prolonging the life of Parliament during the war—that both political parties in Canada would recognize the necessity of united action and united sympathy, in prosecuting this war to a successful conclusion. But as time went on such a diversity of opinion developed upon this subject that, desirable though it should have been regarded by all who were in sympathy with our attitude in the war, it soon became obvious that it would not be desirable to ask for a further extension of

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.