

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think under such circumstances we would declare war.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Who would declare war?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The Canadian government; we would pass the order in council.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Do you think the captain would have to lie to until he communicated with the government?

Mr. FIELDING. All those ships have wireless.

Mr. EDWARDS. In the event of war between England and some foreign power, and in the event of the Governor in Council deciding that Canada would not take part, would the Prime Minister consider an attack, by that foreign power, on any of Canada's vessels, a violation of international law?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I would not see any violation of international law in that, because if England were at war we would be at war, and liable to attack.

Mr. J. D. REID. The Prime Minister agreed to give me some information as to the annual cost of maintaining and operating the 'Niobe'.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will give it to my hon. friend before we get out of committee.

On section 19; calling of parliament when naval service on active service,

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved:

That section 19 be amended by inserting the word 'two' after the word 'the' in the 40th line, and adding the letter 's' at the end of the word 'section'.

He said: It will then read:

Whenever the Governor in Council places the naval service or any part thereof on active service, as provided in the two preceding sections, &c.

Amendment agreed to.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have another amendment to move as section 19a as follows:

When the Governor in Council declares that an emergency has arisen in which it is expedient for the public service that His Majesty should have control of any dock, shipyard, pier, wharf, machine shop, repairing or salvage plant, factory, warehouse, store or other building, the minister may by warrant under his hand empower any person or persons named in such warrant to take possession of the same in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, and to use it for the service of His Majesty in such manner as the minister directs, and all persons, officers, servants and employees employed thereon shall

obey the directions of the minister in connection with the management or operation of the same.

2. Such warrant shall remain in force so long as in the opinion of the minister the emergency exists.

3. There shall be paid to any person whose property is taken possession of in pursuance of this section out of moneys to be provided by parliament such full compensation for any loss or injury he so sustained as is agreed upon between the minister and the said person, or in case of difference as is fixed upon reference to the Exchequer Court of Canada.

4. Where any property is taken possession of under the provisions of this section all contracts and agreements between the persons whose property is so taken possession of and the directors, officers and servants of such person, or between such person and any other person in relation to the working or maintenance of such property, which would if such possession had not been taken, have been enforceable by the said person shall during the continuance of such possession be enforceable by His Majesty.

This is taken from the Militia Act.

Mr. J. D. REID. I should think the Prime Minister would have given some notice of that. It is impossible to understand it from just hearing it read.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The amendment is obvious, it is taken from the Militia Act, it is the law of all nations, and it is recognized by everybody.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. As I understand it the clause will impress the men in any of these works to work for the government.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is the clause.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Not only take possession of the property but of the workmen and compel them to work for the government whether they want to or not.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. So it does, war is not always pleasant.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I should think that in justice to the workmen so impressed, provision should be made in the Act referring to pensions and annuities to grant to any workman so employed, who happens to be injured, the same annuities or pensions as would be granted to an enlisted man.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have no objection to that.

On section 20; constitution of reserve.

Mr. J. D. REID. How are the men selected?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That clause is also taken from the Militia Act.

Mr. J. D. REID. As I understand the admiralty select their own men; in this