On section 1—*Repeal of section 4.*

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, I think I should make a short statement and explanation as to this bill.

Section 4 of the Government Employees Compensation Act, 1947, provides that where an employee of the federal government is caused personal injury, where death follows an accident, or an industrial disease is suffered by such employee in the province of Prince Edward Island, the rate of compensation shall be that which is in accordance with the law of the province of New Brunswick. On the 23rd day of March, 1949, the Workmen's Compensation Act of the province of Prince Edward Island was enacted, and, I understand, put into effect on the same day. Therefore the province of Prince Edward Island now has its law of compensation in so far as government employees are concerned. This being the case, it is advisable that section 4 of the Government Employees Compensation Act, 1947, be repealed so that section 3 will now come into operation so far as the province of Prince Edward Island is concerned. In other words, it will mean when an accident occurs or death follows or an industrial disease exists involving employees of the government in the province of Prince Edward Island, by virtue of section 3 the law applicable will be that which is in existence at the time in the province of Prince Edward Island.

I am sure the bill will commend itself to the house.

Mr. McLure: This covers compensation for injuries to all government employees in Prince Edward Island, and it will now be the same as the rest of the provinces? Is that right?

Mr. Chevrier: The first part of the hon. member's question should be answered yes, and the second part no. The law applicable in the case of Prince Edward Island will be that which was enacted on the 23rd of March, 1949, but it is somewhat different in that province from what it is in other provinces.

Mr. McLure: It will be entirely up to them.

Mr. Chevrier: That is right.

Section agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

BANKRUPTCY ACT

GENERAL REVISION AND CONSOLIDATION—VARIOUS AMENDMENTS

Hon. Colin Gibson (for the Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee on Bill No. 149, respecting bankruptcy.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: May I remind hon. members that the bill has been studied carefully in the standing committee on banking and commerce, and is now reported therefrom with a few amendments. Unless I have unanimous consent I shall have to call each clause separately.

Mr. Fraser: Will you indicate, sir, the sections on which amendments were made in the committee?

The Deputy Chairman: Yes.

Sections 1 to 173 inclusive agreed to.

On section 174—*Coming into force.*

Mr. Fleming: It is not my desire to break the spell which has been cast over these sections, but I think it worth saying that the fact the committee has found it possible to pass them with such speed is a tribute to the work done in the banking and commerce committee, which really has been working very hard on this bill, sitting twice a day for the past two weeks.

I should like to ask the Minister of Justice when it is proposed that the act be brought into effect. One of the factors which impelled the banking and commerce committee to work so strenuously on this bill was that representations were received from a number of responsible bodies indicating their keen desire to see the bill adopted and brought into operation as quickly as possible. Could the minister indicate when it is proposed to bring the legislation into effect?

Mr. Garson: I do not think I can give any more definite undertaking than simply to repeat the words of those who have urged that it be brought into effect as quickly as possible. Certainly it is our intention to bring this legislation into operation as soon as that can be done.

Mr. Fair: I should like also to ask the Minister of Justice whether the speed with which this legislation has gone through the house is responsible for the clocks in the chamber going on strike. Apparently they have not been able to keep up with us.

Section agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.