

the insurance department should be maintained. As the minister has just said, some of the provinces would very much prefer that provincial companies should attorn to this jurisdiction so as to relieve them of the burden and necessity of constant supervision and inspection. The history of the United States with respect to insurance should be of some assistance to us. Their forty-eight states have forty-eight laws with respect to insurance companies, their inspection and supervision, and this has imposed a very considerable burden of expense on the companies. I am not in any sense endeavouring to promote the federal power when I say it is generally conceded by those who have to do business with insurance companies, that a single unified control, properly directed, with such conditions imposed as this parliament thinks desirable, will promote efficiency and safeguard the interests of the insured. That is the general view at least; whether it is the accurate view or not I am not going to express an opinion.

Then if once we establish the department, its jurisdiction with respect to the companies we ourselves incorporate is complete. With respect to the provincially incorporated or created companies, the jurisdiction is conditional; if they do attorn to this jurisdiction and desire there should be that control, then the department has been in the habit heretofore—and I presume will be hereafter—of exercising those functions. But that does not divest the provinces of their control; it relieves them of the expense. I think the hon. gentleman will understand why some of the provinces would very much prefer that that should be done.

Then you pass into the realm that is more difficult from one standpoint, less difficult from another. The British companies have not the status of our domestic companies, owing their incorporation neither to a statute by this parliament nor by the provincial legislatures, but to a statute in some other part of the British Empire. They come in here with British nationality and they must be subject to different control from that governing the company created by foreign legislation, because you cannot invoke the clause with respect to aliens against British companies. Therefore this third bill endeavours to make a clear differentiation between British companies on the one hand and foreign companies on the other. That is the purpose of the legislation.

I need hardly say to the hon. gentleman who has followed these matters as a lawyer that each phase presents a distinct and clear cut issue. First, the creation of your depart-

[Mr. Bennett.]

ment and the necessity for it. In other words, we cannot divest ourselves of our responsibilities, for no province would have as of right jurisdiction over some phases of the insurance business that we should have with respect to those companies that we ourselves have created. We leave out, as I say, provincial companies, except as they may see fit to attorn to our jurisdiction. The other matters I will not reiterate our position with respect to, but I think it is quite clear why it is desirable to separate these measures and not have an aggregation of sections that deal with different cases, but rather to try to separate them one from the other. I may say that in a committee in another house the fullest public discussion took place and the most eminent counsel representing the provinces and the companies made representations in connection with the legislation. The legislation as it now stands embodies the collective wisdom of the most eminent counsel we have in Canada, together with the suggestions that have been made by the law officers of the crown, on the federal side as well as on the side of the provinces.

In answer to my hon. friend from Battle River (Mr. Spencer), I may say that yesterday I received a telegram signed by Mr. Harpell, stating that he was representing certain of the policyholders' associations, but my inquiries, which thus far have been casual and which I have not followed up in detail, have brought the information that he did not ask to be heard before the Senate committee that afforded the greatest possible opportunity for representations to be made by any person who might desire to make them. In fact representations were made both by letter and verbally, by people interested.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like to be permitted to congratulate the Prime Minister on his success in getting around some of the difficulties inherent in the British North America Act. This is almost the first time that I recall such a triumph on the part of the government in overcoming the jurisdictional problems so often connected with that act. As I understand the Prime Minister, he says this act does not deprive the provinces of their jurisdiction but relieves them of their responsibility. I hope that some day the Prime Minister will devote himself to an attempt to arrange some *modus vivendi* by which we can secure the enforcement of the eight hour day and also adopt in this dominion something in the nature of unemployment insurance. It seems to me that if we put our wills to work there should be no