

The next amendment is to add at the end of section 19, on page 11 of the Bill, line 24, the following words:

except in cases where the debtor has refused to agree to the adjustment of the mortgage or where any other person, whose consent to the adjustment is necessary, has refused to consent.

Unless some honourable senator desires me to read the whole paragraph—and without the whole paragraph the amendment does not mean much—I will dispense.

These, honourable members, are the main amendments made by the committee.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, the amendments are relatively unimportant and I do not intend to launch a debate upon them, but on the motion for third reading I shall make some comments and move an amendment.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: I may say that when these amendments reach the other House one may be regarded as controversial. It is the amendment to sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of section 16, changing the date for readjustment of farm mortgages from January 1, 1939, to January 1, 1938. By this amendment any loans effected after January 1, 1938, would not come under the operation of the Bill.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: As honourable senators know, under this Bill mortgages are classified as farm and non-farm. The amendment to which the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) has just referred does not affect the date for adjustment of non-farm mortgages, which is January 1, 1936, but farm mortgages or agreements for sale made after January 1, 1938, will not be adjusted.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Why not leave the date as originally fixed, 1939?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Any farm loans of importance after January 1, 1938, were made by the Canada Farm Loan Board. There has been very little company loaning at all.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: But there would be a number of renewals.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: They are not affected at all. It is new mortgages or agreements for sale made by the company which are really affected. In Manitoba especially, and also in some of the other provinces, the companies in 1938 sold some land under agreements for sale. Those cannot be reviewed if this amendment is adopted. I thought that it was unimportant and that the House of Commons would raise no objection to it, as they might have bigger matters to consider.

The motion was agreed to.

MOTION FOR THIRD READING—BILL
REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, since I entered into some premature discussion of this measure yesterday our Committee on Banking and Commerce has had two sessions, one until late yesterday afternoon and the other from early morning until noon to-day. We have had the advantage of having before us the Hon. Minister of Finance and as well Dr. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance, and we have heard also certain opinions expressed by others. All this has not resulted in altering my attitude towards the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend is very headstrong.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I would there were others like minded.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Debt has apparently ceased to have any dread for representatives of the people. I can well recall when it was regarded as the duty of public officials and public men to exercise the same homely virtues which have contributed, and have alone contributed, to the success of the citizen in a free country; but that disposition has faded and faded as debt has multiplied. As the impossibility of servicing becomes more obvious, debt ceases to have any terrors at all. So we push on and on, forgetting that there is an abyss, forgetful of the very plain truth, many times driven home through the pages of history, that these things mean just the same to the nation as to the individual. The nation has to pay, whether in the purging fires of bankruptcy or in some other way, just as the individual pays for living beyond his means and following courses which are financially unsound.

Debt beyond our ability to service, and at the same time permit the free play and onward march of enterprise, means the end of the economic State. We are not servicing our debt to-day; we are just borrowing more to pay our yearly deficits. The reason we borrow, and borrow easily, is that strictures upon enterprise are now such that people are afraid to place their money elsewhere, and timidly rush to the Government with their savings, hoping they may be secure in the Government's hands. And all this goes on at the expense of the unfortunate. I would the House could see that it is always at the cost of poorer people. False policy must