

ment will consider their cases with a strong inclination to the side of mercy.

The section was agreed to.

On section 5—salaries less than new minimum to be increased to such minimum:

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: That is simply giving effect to the former sections.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: Do I understand that the increase of \$50 per annum given to the third class and \$100 to the first and second classes is on account of difference in the cost of living? If that is the case, would it not be equitable to give \$100 to a man on a low salary as well as to one who receives a higher salary? It will surely cost \$100 more for the man who receives \$1,000 to live, and surely it is harder for him to economize on that salary than it would be for a man receiving \$1,500 or \$1,600.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I may say that we are dealing with a particular class—those chiefly in the Second and Third Divisions, the lower-paid classes of public servants. But section 4 permits of giving an increase annually of \$100 instead of \$50. Section 37 is repealed; that section makes provision for an annual increase of only \$50, though under exceptional circumstances \$100 might be given. But this Bill enlarges the authority of a department to increase the official pay by \$100 instead of \$50.

The section was agreed to.

The Bill was reported.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

FIRST READING.

Bill Q2, an Act to amend the Companies Act.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed.

DIVORCE BILL.

FIRST READING.

Bill R2, an Act for the relief of John Newton Salter.—Hon. Mr. Taylor.

The Senate adjourned until three o'clock to-morrow.

THE SENATE.

Thursday, June 21, 1917.

The Senate met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

A VOTE ON CONSCRIPTION.

INQUIRY.

Hon. P. A. CHOQUETTE rose to call the attention of the Government to the following extract from an article published in the Montreal Star of the 5th June, instant:

Too Much Secrecy At Ottawa.

And by that same token if there is ever to be a vote on our war policy, it should be an open vote. The ballot has its uses in protecting the labouring man from his employer and the poor man from the rich, but it should not be prostituted into a shield for cowardice, moral or physical. Any man who goes up to vote either to conscript his fellow citizen or to desert his other fellow citizen already under German fire should do so like a man, under the eyes of the youth he intends to conscript or the father and brother of the other youth he intends to desert.

And to inquire if the Government intends to do anything in that direction.

He said: In the remarks which I made yesterday on this question I stated that the article referred to was not of great importance in the province of Quebec. It will have no effect there. If a vote is to be taken in Quebec we are willing to have it either open or secret. We are not afraid to say openly what we say privately in expressing our views on this important question.

But, honourable gentlemen, the Montreal Star, in which this article appeared, must have been in a position to know that in certain provinces of this Dominion an open vote on conscription would be much better for the measure than a secret vote. Without discussing which method should be adopted, I desire to draw the attention of the Government to some articles published in newspapers in the province of Ontario, to show what are the prevailing sentiments there, and to show especially why the Montreal Star has published this article calling the Government's attention to the mode of taking a vote on this question. It is known that when the national registration cards were sent out thousands of young men, especially in Ontario, took the road to the United States, whereas in the province of Quebec no one left his home and went away, but all remained and did their duty. In confirmation of that fact I will refer you to the following article which appeared in the Star of the 1st of February last:

More Leaving for United States.

Sarnia, Ont., Feb. 1.—The January report from the Port Huron immigration office shows the number of applicants for admission to the United States on the increase. There were 1,231 applicants, and a large number of those seeking admission were Canadians of military