

the supplying of needs or comforts to sufferers from the war, or to soldiers, returned soldiers or their families or dependents, or any other charitable purpose connected with the present European war.

By section 4, provision is made for local registration so that even in the case he mentions no difficulty would arise. The measure, I think, is in the public interest. I am informed that frauds have been perpetrated upon the public by appeals in aid of war charities, and there would seem to be no objection to the principle of the Bill. The minister is authorized to exempt any war charity from registration under the Act. That will save all the well-known funds and associations. Then a simple method is provided for registration locally so as to avoid difficulty to these associations of a minor character which are making local appeals in aid of war charities.

Mr. MARCIL: What does the minister mean by local registration? Is it registration with the registrar or municipal authorities? In my constituency there are ladies' clubs which hold entertainments and so on and send parcels to the boys at the front. Would an organization of that kind come under this Bill?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: If it is an association having certain definite objects as mentioned in section 2, it would. No difficulty could arise, because the minister could exempt that organization from registration under the Act. By section 4, the minister can appoint a local committee to attend to local registration. I do not apprehend any serious difficulty in connection with these associations which are bona fide carrying on the work of raising money or rendering assistance to war charities. The object of the Bill is to protect the public against associations which are not bona fide appealing to public sympathy. In framing an Act to protect the public in this way it is necessary to deal generally with associations making such appeals.

Mr. PARDEE: Does the minister not think that the churches would come under the definition of association?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: A church is not an association.

Mr. PARDEE: It is an institution. In fact I think it comes under both terms. Will it be necessary for each church to register or will the churches be subject to the penalty of \$500 fine if they do not register? Supposing a church gives a large social purely for war purposes, under what section would it be exempt?

[Sir Thomas White.]

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Because of the definition of war purposes.

Mr. PARDEE: That is it is not formed for that purpose?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Therefore it is not a charity.

Mr. PARDEE: I think that the framer of the Bill had something of this in mind, because on page 2 we have the section:

This section shall not apply to any collection at Divine service in a place of public worship.

Then what about the other collections of the church?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I do not agree with my hon. friend, because certainly it is not the object of the church "to relieve suffering or distress—

Mr. MACDONALD: Oh yes it is.

Mr. McCRAVEY: What church do you go to?

Sir THOMAS WHITE—"or the suffering of needs or comforts to sufferers from the war, or to returned soldiers and so on, or to any other charitable purpose connected with the present European war." That is not the object of the church.

Mr. MACDONALD: Oh yes.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The church does that incidentally, but that is not the object of the church; and if a church which is organized for other objects incidentally assists in connection with the war, I should say that this Act does not apply to it.

Mr. GLASS: Nothing can more generally discourage public charity than frauds perpetrated upon the public in connection with charity, and experience during this war has shown that there have been occasions when unscrupulous organizations and people have made collections to defraud the public. I rather agree with the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) that this Bill, as drafted, does not nearly cover the objects intended. I do not deny that the objects in view are desirable and in some senses necessary, but the point raised by the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Pardee) was in my mind before he spoke, that the very fact that, in subsection 2 of section 3, provision is made to exempt collections made at divine service, would seem to indicate that other collections by the church would not be exempted. It speaks of any fund, and it would seem that a fund collected by a church and set aside