

War Appropriation Bill

provinces, but will also provide a wider market in British Columbia for the surplus wheat held in the three prairie provinces.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

DECENNIAL CENSUS

INQUIRY AS TO DECISION TO PROCEED IN 1941
AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. NICHOLSON (Mackenzie): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon). Has it definitely been decided by the government to proceed with the two million dollar expenditure in connection with the taking of the 1941 census? If so, when will parliament be advised as to the names of the commissioners for the various constituencies?

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The hon. member for Mackenzie has just sent me notice that he proposed to ask this question this afternoon. Preliminary arrangements have been made for taking the census this year. I understand that census commissioners have been appointed.

I may say that if the census is proceeded with, enumerators will be selected from all parties, returned men in all cases where available, and women where practicable.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): There is much virtue in an "if," but what about the "if"? We should have a statement of policy from the government now.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I think I have answered the question as fully as I can at the present moment.

WAR APPROPRIATION BILL

PROVISION FOR GRANTING TO HIS MAJESTY AID
FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The house resumed from Thursday, February 20, consideration in committee of a resolution to provide sums not exceeding \$1,300,000,000 for the year ending March 31, 1942, for the carrying out of measures consequent upon the existence of a state of war—Mr. Hsley—Mr. Bradette in the chair.

Mr. POULIOT: Some little discussion has taken place on this resolution in this house and in this committee since the beginning of the week. What I have not heard of it I have read in *Hansard*.

I have been in politics for quite a number of years, and amongst the rank and file members of the Liberal party there is only my [Mr. Reid.]

friend the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Deslauriers) who is my senior. Therefore I can speak with the experience of years in active politics and in debate in this house. On the other side of the house I see my dear old friend the independent member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), and one of the members from Toronto (Mr. Harris), who is very jovial when he wishes to be, or when he is not frowning. There is the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (Mr. Woodsworth), who has always been very kind to me as a colleague. Then in the cabinet itself there is my chief, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King); there is my beloved leader for the province of Quebec; there are the other ministers from Quebec and the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar), all of whom are senior to me here. Other ministers I have seen come and go, and with one or two exceptions I hope those who sit on the treasury benches to-day will remain there for a long time.

The air is thick and unbreathable. I have never witnessed such backstage intrigue as there is now in high quarters. I am disgusted with the ways in which intrigue is being carried on in the holy name of patriotism when we know that behind it is a group of scoundrels, buccaneers, racketeers, pirates, who are trying to get hold of Canada's wealth for their own purposes. It is hateful; and whether it comes from Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto or this city of Ottawa it is no less shameful. We do not want to see the few enriched at the expense of the many. We want to see our soldiers well clothed and well armed, given useful weapons with which to gain the victory. We do not want any slackers in uniform to infest some of the branches of the Department of National Defence, such as that of the judge advocate general; and I know what I am saying. I do not hate Tories, but I hate Toryism, especially under the guise of Liberalism.

I do not see my revered chief in his seat to-day, but I am sure he remembers when I was a young member and came to him for assistance in connection with the difficulties confronting me. He has always been very kind. Sometimes I was indignant when he refused me, when I was fighting for the good cause of freedom and liberty for which our soldiers are fighting now on the soil of England. I believe they should be here to protect our families in Canada, in sufficient numbers and properly equipped to give us all a feeling of security. I remember our beloved leader in the province of Quebec when he was still a young lawyer at Rivière du Loup; in those days he, too, was very kind to me. We have fought many battles together. I remember on