

Pensions and Soldiers' Problems

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the one to which I drew the attention of the house a few moments ago. I thought it required forty-eight hours' notice.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps my intervention caused Your Honour to overlook the fact that the motion of the chairman of the committee on agriculture and colonization was not put.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was put. I will put it again.

Mr. BENNETT: What happened, Mr. Speaker, was that you read the motion and then you said, "Is the house ready for the question?" And I rose to speak. There was no determination by the chair that the motion had been carried or otherwise.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put the motion again. Mr. Weir moves, seconded by Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre), that the recommendations contained in the first report of the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization, submitted to the house on Thursday, March 12, be now concurred in.

Motion (Mr. Weir) agreed to.

PENSIONS AND SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of Pensions and National Health) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution:

That a special committee be set up to which shall be referred such matters connected with pensions and returned soldiers' problems as the house may deem advisable and that rule 65 be suspended in relation thereto; that the said committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses for evidence, to print such papers and evidence from day to day, as may be ordered by the committee for the use of the committee and members of the house, and to report from time to time. The committee shall consist of the following members, to wit: Beaubier, Betts, Brooks, Cameron (Hastings South), Emmerson, Fiset, Green, Hamilton, Hartigan, Isnor, Lapointe (Matapedia-Matane), Lennard, Macdonald (Brantford City), MacLean (Prince), MacNeil, McLean (Melfort), Marshall, Mulock, Mutch, Poole, Power, Reid, Ross (Middlesex East), Streight, Thorson, Tremblay, Tucker, Wilton.

Motion agreed to.

GERMAN CONSCRIPTION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): My hon. friend the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) addressed a question to the govern-
[Mr. Bennett.]

ment a day or two ago with respect to a statement made by the consul general of Germany at Montreal. I said in reply that I had asked for an exact copy of the statement that was issued, and would comment on it if necessary after having seen it.

I have received from the consul general at Montreal the statement that was issued. I had better place it on Hansard. This statement was given to the press by the German consul general on March 11:

All German citizens living in Canada and Newfoundland are to be conscripted for possible service in the German army. Those Germans who have become naturalized British subjects are not affected by the German law. For under the act of July 22, 1913, a German citizen, who acquires voluntarily another nationality, loses—as a matter of principle—his German citizenship.

In 1936 all male German nationals in Canada and Newfoundland, who were born in 1914, 1915, and 1916, are being called up for active military service, the class of 1916 first for the Reich labour service.

These three classes have to report immediately, until March 31 at the latest, to the competent German consular authorities. Those living in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, the maritimes, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and in Newfoundland have to report to the consulate general at Montreal, those living in the western provinces to the German consulate at Winnipeg, by means of a form provided for the purpose.

The classes of 1914, 1915, and 1916 have to procure these forms from the above consular offices; applications should be accompanied by return postage. Applications for temporary exemption are to be filed together with the report. Failure to report is punishable.

Those desiring to volunteer for service, belonging to the classes 1911-15, can apply for enlistment as from October 1, 1936, and the classes of 1912-19 as from October 1, 1937. Such volunteers may apply to the above consular authorities for further particulars.

In enclosing the statement in a communication to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Kempff, the consul general at Montreal, made the following observations:

Dear Doctor Skelton:

I beg to refer to your telegram of March 12, and to enclose copy of the statement which I have given to Canadian newspapers yesterday.

As you will see from the first paragraph, this statement refers exclusively to German nationals. It establishes expressly that nationalized British subjects are not affected by the German law. The German law contains provisions as to the conscription and as to voluntary enlistment. Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the statement deal with the classes of German nationals who will be conscripted in 1936, whilst paragraph 5 refers to those German nationals who desire to volunteer for service.