

It concerns a subject with regard to which, of course, the entire Government have the usual constitutional responsibility, but which has been peculiarly under the review of the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty) had gone home long before we arrived at this particular order. The Prime Minister also, who has taken some interest in the question, had gone home before we had arrived at this order. Still, without notice, this amendment is brought upon us. No notice was given to the Administration; none of us were in possession of the documents appertaining to the motion. None of us were in possession of the book itself, or of the report of officers of the Government—either of the press censor or of Colonel Fotheringham—referring to it. We are asked to meet an amendment so precipitated. This much I know positively: the action taken in this matter was fully recommended in writing by the chief press censor for Canada, Lieut.-Colonel Chambers. I cannot understand the attitude of any hon. member who would assume for a moment that when he made that recommendation Lieut.-Col. Chambers had any ulterior motive—indeed, any motive at all save that of discharging to the best of his judgment and ability the duties of chief press censor. I do not know what is being done at present in England in regard to this matter. I rather think that the Minister of Justice would know he was conducting inquiries with the British Government with a view to ascertaining their attitude towards this publication. I know that he got a reply of some indefiniteness, and that he sent for more information; what information he received, I do not know.

This book is calculated to do harm here in Canada in a way that appertains to us peculiarly, but that does not appertain in the same way to Great Britain. It contains foul libels upon the soldiers of this country. I did not have the matter particularly under my review, but I remember an assertion in the book that a large proportion of the returned soldiers of Canada were to-day in insane asylums or afflicted with insanity by reason of disease brought on by drinking in Great Britain. A more utterly libellous and scandalous assertion could not well be conceived by any one. There are in the book other assertions approaching that—to put it mildly—in the grossness of their inaccuracy. It is true that many portions of the book have not peculiar application here, but the people have no way of telling or measuring the accuracy, the correctness,

[Mr. Melghen.]

or the fairness of the assertions in the book that appertain only to Great Britain. Our information is, to put it mildly, that many of these assertions are grossly exaggerated; that they will create a false impression throughout the country as to conditions overseas. But it was with particular regard to the assertions in the publication relative to the soldiers of this country—assertions reported to us by our own reliable authorities to be absolutely false; assertions which those who ought to know should recognize as absolutely false—that the recommendation was made and followed. I do not think that we should be doing our whole duty in this country if we permit, untrammelled and uncorrected—at all events, without some restriction—a book to receive circulation which does so libel our overseas men, which does so falsely paint conditions overseas. Final action with regard to this—whether or not it has been taken I am not in a position to say just now—was withheld pending the receipt of the information that was cabled for. As the Minister of Justice has arrived, I shall not pursue the matter further. I do emphasize again, however, the unfairness to the House and to the Government of introducing after eleven o'clock at night, without any notice, a motion upon a subject entirely foreign to that which for the most part is now before Parliament.

Amendment negatived on division, and motion to go into Committee of Supply agreed to.

#### SUPPLY.

The House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. D. Stewart in the Chair.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I suggest to the Minister of Customs (Mr. Reid) that the committee should not proceed to-night.

Mr. REID: There are just three items of the Minister of Inland Revenue. We are leaving a number of other items—

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I do not think that three items, or even one item, ought to go through for the Minister of Inland Revenue. I do not think that it is necessary to proceed even with those to-night.

Mr. REID: If we had had notice of this other amendment—

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Hon. gentlemen on this side had no notice either. It was a matter of public importance.

Mr. OLIVER: It was thoroughly understood on Saturday that I desired to move