

Human Rights

Bill No. 192, for the relief of Jessie Gertrude Noel Magee.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 193, for the relief of John Luchuck.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 194, for the relief of Rhondda Blanche Peace Hurford Smith.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 195, for the relief of Mabel Grace Mattinson.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 196, for the relief of Marcel Simpson.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 197, for the relief of Marian Susan Willson Roberts.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 198, for the relief of Jean Gainfort Grossman.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 199, for the relief of Evelyn Mildred Cook Stone.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 200, for the relief of Lily Elizabeth Harris Cunningham.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 201, for the relief of Mildred Merica Ruth Goodreau Snyder.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 202, for the relief of Harry Powell.—Mr. Maybank.

Bill No. 203, an act for the relief of Margaret Patricia Fairhurst Richards.—Mr. Maybank.

TORONTO TYPE FOUNDRY COMPANY LIMITED

The house resumed from Tuesday, May 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Sinclair (Ontario) for the second reading of Bill No. 178, respecting certain patents owned by Toronto Type Foundry Company Limited, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Jaenicke.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the house ready for the question?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is on the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

HUMAN RIGHTS

FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS — OBLIGATIONS UNDER UNITED NATIONS CHARTER — APPOINTMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie (for the Prime Minister) that the house go into committee on a resolution for the appointment of a joint committee of both houses of parliament to consider the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

[Mr. McIvor.]

Mr. ALISTAIR STEWART (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, we in the C.C.F. give our complete approval, of course, to this resolution that a joint committee of both houses be appointed to consider the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Never in all recorded history have the rights of man faced so ruthless a challenge as has been the case in the last ten or fifteen years. This challenge has been met. We survived the onslaught of enemies who were intent upon destroying freedom in the four corners of the world.

The cost of survival has been heavy. When history comes to be written it will be seen that part of the cost of survival is a world struggling in the birth pangs of a new social and new economic order; change is in the nature of things and change is in the air today.

On every continent exploited and subjugated peoples are struggling for their freedom. They are among those who fought in the last war, partly with the negative desire to defeat fascism, and partly for something more positive. I should like to think of that positive aim in the words of the declaration the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) gave to us this afternoon, that declaration issued by the parliament of Scotland in 1320. I repeat it here:

It is not for glory, riches, or honour, that we fight, but for that liberty which no good man will consent to lose but with his life.

Six hundred years ago they fought in Scotland against the foreign oppressor. They fought for the right to nationhood, and today there is still that same desire in the world for the right to national self-determination.

Throughout the generations and centuries the conception of freedom has broadened out, and each generation must view it in the light of circumstances of the day. Freedom involves new problems as the years go by. Once again the time has come for us in Canada to re-examine what we mean by human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This last war was fought on the part of tens of thousands, not only to guard these essential freedoms of speech, of conscience and of the person, but for something more. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) said in the early days of the war that, unless a new order was well on its way before the end of the war, the world might look for it in vain. Those who fought the war looked for that new order. They fought perhaps with a sense of burning idealism which was imbedded in them as the result of the concept that this was the century of the common man, a concept which, as President Roosevelt said in 1944, realized that true freedom has no meaning unless man