

mittee if that it is the desire of the House. I was merely giving a short synopsis of the changes made in the Bill by the Committee.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: That is all Greek to the House.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: I have no objection to the Bill going to the Committee.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE AND REPORTED

The amendment of Hon. Mr. Griesbach was agreed to, and the Senate went into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. McMeans in the Chair.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—improper conduct:

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: What is the amendment proposed?

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: This is struck out.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: This is an important clause. The meaning of it should be explained to the House by the honourable gentleman in charge of the Bill. Members who are not familiar with this legislation are entitled to know what it means.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: This clause relates to pensions being granted on account of venereal disease. The question arose in the Committee, whether or not, after a man had served and had been discharged, and later on was called into service again—being in an absolutely sound condition the second time and the trouble returning—this man, having come back on service for a particular occasion, on the breaking out again of this venereal disease, should have the right to come to the Board of Pension Commissioners and ask for a pension. The Committee decided that he should not—that if the man was sound, the trouble was not by reason of service in the actual theatre of war.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: My honourable friend has not quite grasped the meaning of this clause. This is to cover the case of a man who at some time in his life has had venereal disease. He enlists in the forces and is passed by the doctor as being in perfectly sound condition. Then, because of the hardships or the exertion involved in active service, the venereal disease returns. The practice of the Board of Pension Commissioners in the past has been to pension him for the percentage of disability which may be ascribed to an aggravation of the disease.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE.

I find that people who discuss this clause are rather inclined to be carried away by the name of the complaint. If a man went skating, we will say, on thin ice in the fall of the year, and fell through the ice and contracted pneumonia and recovered from it, and then went on active service, and as a result of the hardships of service had a return of the pneumonia—I do not know whether that is possible—it would be agreed that because of the aggravation brought about by service he should be entitled to a pension. But, because the name of this disease and because it is assumed that exposure to it is a matter under the control of the individual, there is a super-moral objection on the part of some honourable gentlemen to consider the case. I submit that if a man who has had venereal disease is sound and fit and passes the doctor, and if, as a result of his exertions on service, he has a return of the complaint, he is entitled to consideration. In point of fact, he has received consideration.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: It is discretionary with the Board now. This section of the Bill makes it obligatory.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen must remember that this Pension Act is applicable not only to those who served in the great war, but is to be applicable hereafter to members of the militia, no matter where they serve. If they serve in suppressing a riot—

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Absolutely no. There is nothing which makes it applicable at all.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This is the Militia Pension Bill, and according to the statement of the Chairman of the Pension Board, it is applicable in that way. I ask honourable gentlemen to keep that in view. At the present time, as the law stands, the Pension Commissioners are vested with discretionary authority to deal with this particular disease or disability. If we have a Pension Board upon which we can rely in such an important subject as pensions in all their features, surely we should give them power to exercise discretion in a case of this nature.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: The discretion is taken away.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, they have full authority to deal with it.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Outside of this clause?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I hope that the House will appreciate the services rendered