

Unopposed cases heard and recommended.....	58
Opposed cases heard and recommended.....	4
Opposed case heard and rejected.....	1
Applications not proceeded with..	7
	70

Of the petitions recommended, 21 were by husbands and 41 by wives.

Of the applications recommended, all were from residents of the province of Quebec.

An analysis of the occupations followed by the applicants is as follows: accountants, agent, airman, barbers, chauffeurs, clerks, druggist, electrician, engraver, garage proprietor, labourer, married women, mechanic, nurse, operator, pipe fitter, porter, real estate broker, retired policeman, salesman, school teacher, seaman, secretary, stenographer, superintendent, trader.

The committee held nineteen meetings.

In 42 cases the Committee on Divorce recommended that part of the parliamentary fees be remitted.

Assuming that all the bills of divorce recommended by the committee and now in various stages before Parliament receive the Royal Assent, the comparison of the number of divorces and annulments of marriage granted by the Parliament of Canada since the passing of the Ontario Divorce Act is as follows:

1931.....	39
1932.....	27
1932-3.....	24
1934.....	38
1935.....	30
1936.....	40
1937.....	46
1938.....	85
1939.....	50
1940.....	62

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, I move that for the time being we suspend the first three Orders of the Day and proceed to the fourth Order, for the second reading of the Unemployment Insurance Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 98, an Act to establish an Unemployment Insurance Commission, to provide for Insurance against Unemployment, to establish an Employment Service, and for other purposes related thereto.

He said: Honourable senators, I should perhaps preface my remarks with a statement explaining how it is that, the Bennett Gov-

ernment having passed an Unemployment Insurance Bill in 1935, we are now presenting a Bill of the same nature; and perhaps I should also explain the delay which has intervened between 1935 and this year. Of course, most honourable members of the Senate are familiar with the situation. When the 1935 measure was introduced it was stated there was a pressing need for such legislation. That measure was passed, and later declared void by the Supreme Court of Canada and the Privy Council, on the ground that it was unconstitutional. After the Privy Council's decision was handed down, the Government busied itself in an attempt to obtain support from the provinces for a resolution addressed to the Imperial Parliament asking for an amendment to the British North America Act which would permit the Federal Government to bring down a Bill of this kind. It took some time to get the provinces to agree to that. I think three of them stood aloof, and it was not until recently that they all agreed to transfer to the Federal Government the right to legislate on unemployment insurance. Then a resolution asking the Imperial Parliament to amend our Constitution so as to give the Federal Government power to legislate on this subject was adopted in the House of Commons and the Senate, and as soon as the Imperial Parliament passed the necessary enactment the present Bill was initiated in the Commons.

The last five years have yielded to the parties interested in drafting this measure considerable experience which was not available to those who had to do with the 1935 measure. Great Britain had already passed an Act, which was amended more than once, and the experience in that country and in the United States could be drawn upon in the preparation of this Bill. I may say that a great deal of study has been given to the project, both before and since 1935. Experts in the Department of Labour and in the Insurance Branch have worked together in trying to perfect a statute which would meet the needs of this country. As I have already intimated, unemployment insurance was not a new thing in some other countries. And in this country, if I am not mistaken, my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) was instrumental in having appointed in 1919 a royal commission to study the questions of unemployment insurance and old age pensions.

After the 1935 Bill was received from the Commons it was in due course referred to our Banking and Commerce Committee, who gave it considerable study. The principle of the Bill had been unanimously accepted in the other House, and on second reading it was