

Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Duff). I was more than impressed by what he said, and I have become convinced I should say at this stage that my vote in favour of second reading will be given to facilitate reference to a committee and should not be interpreted as indicating my support of the Bill. I think that from the discussions will emerge this thought, that any damage caused to the property of citizens of this country by enemy action, on the coast or inland, or any damage attributable directly to the war, such as from explosions of dangerous materials in the course of transit or while in warehouse awaiting export, should be taken care of by this country to the limit of its capacity.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. COTE: Surely the principle of indemnity which was applied in the case of the Halifax catastrophe is a good precedent. The indemnity receivable by each victim of war damage should not depend upon whether or not he has contributed personally to any insurance fund or purchased a policy. He is part of a national risk, and if a bomber goes over his house it is not through his neglect or on his invitation. It is an act of war. If ever the principle of solidarity among the citizens of this country should be recognized, it is when one suffers from enemy action through the choice of the enemy and not of himself. We all should come to the rescue in such cases. The cost of compensation should be paid by us all collectively. In other words, the premium should be collected, not from the individual sufferer, but at large, through the process of taxation, over the whole country.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. COTE: It seems to me that is the sound principle. I should prefer a scheme of war indemnity to come out of public funds; not to indemnify completely the sufferers from war damage—for we could never hope to do that if the damage were at all substantial—but to indemnify them in some reasonable measure. It may be that in the elaboration of such a scheme exceptions should be made as against those risks which the individual, on account of some special feature of his business, would cover by his own insurance. For instance, if a man desires to engage in an occupation to which extra risk is attached, such as shipping goods by

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sea, and if he hopes to make a profit thereby, he possibly should be asked to pay his own premium for protection through an insurance company. But if an ordinary citizen suffers damage by enemy action simply on account of the fact that he happens to be residing in Canada, then I say the country should extend to him a helping hand, and his eligibility to receive help should not depend upon whether or not he had the means to subscribe to an insurance fund or purchase an individual policy.

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: May I ask the honourable senator what he thinks about increased premiums on soldiers' policies?

Hon. Mr. COTE: I should not like to express an opinion on that feature just now, because I do not think it has anything to do with this Bill, which deals with insurance against damage on material property.

Hon. Mr. MacARTHUR: It all has to do with the war effort.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Farris, the debate was adjourned.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CO-ORDINATION BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING moved the second reading of Bill 64, an Act respecting the carrying on and co-ordination of vocational training.

He said: Honourable senators, the object of this Bill is the continuation or re-establishment of the work that was carried on under the Youth Training Act, which was passed in 1939, when the late Hon. Norman Rogers was Minister of Labour. While that Act was in operation the provinces and municipalities throughout the country co-operated with the Dominion Government by making their technical schools and other facilities available, and some 300,000 young persons were given valuable training. The Act expired last March. It is proposed to bring the usefulness of that Act within the scope of this Bill, and to include other activities that are carried on by the Air Force in training men; also some of the work that is being carried on by the Army. Those activities, combined in this Bill, will be placed under the Minister of Labour.

This is an important measure and I think it will receive the endorsement of the Senate. It is proposed to continue co-operation with the various provincial governments, so that men returning from overseas may enjoy an