

they submitted a report, on which was based the legislation of last Session. The present Bill was based on the second part of the Commission's work.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: But my honourable friend will remember that the Senate gave special attention to the report of the Commission last year. I cannot recall any closer attention being paid to the analysis and revision of a Bill than was given by the Senate to the Bill submitted by the Government last Session. My honourable friend was in charge of the deliberations of the Committee at that time, and I say advisedly that there was in the minds of the Committee, when we prepared our report, an impression that practically the whole question was decided. We were unaware that there were other important questions in the offing, waiting to be submitted to the Senate on another occasion.

But surely it would not have been unreasonable to expect that between the prorogation of Parliament last year and the opening of the present Session, an interval of practically eight months, the most mature consideration would be given by the Commission to the subject upon which they had been sitting for over two years, and a Bill would be prepared. They have entered upon their third year, and it is surely reasonable to expect that what took them nearly three years to digest would take at least a few weeks in Parliament. What was the object of this Commission, in submitting this measure in the dying hours of the Session? Did the Commission have in view placing Parliament, and particularly the Senate, in a false position towards the veterans in Canada?

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: It looks like it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Had this Commission in view some political chicanery that they would try to put upon the party in opposition? It looks to me very much like it, honourable gentlemen, because they absolutely refuse to give us an opportunity to consider their report. I say that advisedly. They knew—no Commission knew better—that we could not give proper consideration to that report in the dying hours of the present Session. It came to us yesterday at noon. It was received by the Commons the day before.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The report of the Committee of the House.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I do not think the House considered the report.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When my honourable friend speaks of "the report," he refers to the report of the Committee of the Commons.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, I am speaking of the report of the Commission.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But the Commission's report has been in the hands of a Committee of the House of Commons for two or three months.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Allow me to say to my honourable friend that the Commissioners, up to a few days ago, were in Ottawa, all apparently as enthusiastic and as energetic in the carrying on of their work as they ever were; and if my honourable friend will look at the expenses of the Commission he will find that there has been no abatement of energy, so far as rolling up their expenses is concerned. I venture to say that the Government has not even yet been released.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: They will come back again next year.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I appeal to my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), whose convictions on this question are, I know, as deep as ours. Is this the treatment that should be accorded the Senate in dealing with a measure of this kind? My honourable friend is expected, according to our constitutional practice, to endorse the action of his Government; yet there are times when a member of the Government will jump the traces, so to speak, and give free expression to convictions which are deeply rooted in his mind. That, I know, is the position of my honourable friend.

A further point, which was mentioned yesterday, and which apparently the Government has ignored in refusing to accept our amendments, is that if mature consideration had not been given to the many questions which had arisen they could be the subject of legislation at next Session. The public interest would not suffer. The interests of the men would not suffer. Surely the public do not expect us to put through a measure of this character, involving millions of dollars of expenditure for two or three generations, without giving it careful thought. My honourable friend will fully agree with us on this point, and I think that the least we may expect of him is that he will assure the Government that the Senate has done all it could do with this Bill. We have given it more than a passing glance; we have given it the most sympathetic consideration—I venture to say more sympathetic than was given it by the other branch of Parliament.