

a three-cent tax on the gasoline used by farmers. A great many members of the house exerted themselves for a long time, until they felt that they were really obstructing the government, in an endeavour to have that pernicious tax removed, but the minister sat quite still and allowed one of the most unfair taxes that could be conceived of to go into operation and to continue in operation throughout this country. If we have no recourse, what is the use of our being here? What is the use of our talking?

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Fournier (Hull) in the chair.

Mr. ILSLEY moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1943, the sum of \$19,952,242.11 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Ilesley thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 98, for granting to his majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1943.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Fournier (Hull) in the chair.

Sections 1 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

On the schedule.

Mr. STIRLING: I take it that this bill is in the usual form in every respect.

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes, exactly.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

MOBILIZATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO REPEAL SECTION 3 PROVIDING LIMITATION IN RESPECT OF SERVICE OVERSEAS

The house resumed from Thursday, June 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mackenzie King for the second reading of Bill No. 80, to

amend the National Resources Mobilization Act, 1940.

Mr. J. A. CRETE (St. Maurice-Lafèche): Mr. Speaker, on February 11 last, speaking on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I took a clear-cut stand with regard to conscription and the plebiscite. I made the following statement at that time:

I wish to state that I remain irreducibly opposed to any kind of conscription for overseas service and that I shall not request my constituents to release me from past commitments in this connection.

I also intimated that conscription would not greatly increase the number of men in our armed forces, that it would hinder our war effort by destroying national unity, that it would make the people less enthusiastic about participating in that effort, that it would endanger the confederation pact and that, finally, it might increase the vulnerability of this country, which, according to our military experts, was liable to be attacked by the enemy.

What has since occurred to justify the abandonment of the voluntary system? Nothing as far as I can see.

At a time when hundreds of thousands of Canadians are serving in all our armed forces overseas, when submarine attacks have just been launched against Canada in the St. Lawrence it is proposed to remove the last restriction with regard to conscription so that the government may be able to send overseas those young men of military age who are still in this country.

We are told again that this does not mean conscription. This brings to my mind the story of the sick man whose condition the doctor found slightly improved from day to day, and who was found dead, one morning, as a result of that slight improvement.

A brief review of the political history of the last twenty-five years is sufficient to give us the firm belief that repeal of clause 3 of the mobilization act of 1940 means the enactment of conscription for overseas service.

Mr. GAUTHIER: Without the slightest doubt.

Mr. CRETE: In 1914, Canada went to war against Germany and her allies. At that time, as older men remember and as those of the younger generation have learned, all political leaders in Canada assured us that conscription for overseas service would never be enforced.

The same assurance was given in 1915 and 1916. Early in 1917, a national registration took place. We still remember the solemn assurance that was given to the bishops of