

services of officers and men, no Government grant has been expended on it.

The collection was exhibited in the Royal Academy in London during January and February 1919. During the early summer it was shown in New York and at the time of the writing of the report was being shown in Toronto. In 1920 the Canadian War Memorials collection was transferred to Ottawa and came into the keeping of the National Gallery.

On 12 February 1921, Col. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, signed a receipt for eight paintings to be hung in the Senate Chamber. These were to be in place in time for the opening of the new Houses of Parliament and most of these seem to have remained in the Senate Chamber ever since.

During the two years preceding this time there was much correspondence between the War Memorials Committee and the Government of Canada as to who owned the pictures and who was responsible for outstanding bills. This appears to have been finalized in April 1921 for on 12 April the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. F. B. McCurdy wrote the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery that 'you may consider that the Canadian War Memorials Committee has handed over the collection unconditionally to the Government of Canada'.

I trust the foregoing may be of some value to you in answering any queries regarding the status of these paintings. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

R. F. Wodehouse,

Curator of War Collections

J. F. MacNeill, Esq.,
Clerk of the Senate,
Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Davies, debate adjourned.

PRIVATE BILL

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN BRANCH OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION—SECOND READING

Hon. John J. Kinley moved the second reading of Bill S-5, respecting The General Council of the Canadian Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association. He said: Honourable senators, the bill which now comes before us for discussion is classified as a private bill, but I suggest it is of tremendous public importance. It comes before us in the

form of a petition from the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and brings to us a message from that organization which I am sure makes it a worthy applicant for the legislation sought therein.

The Order of St. John consists of a trained and dedicated body of people in the Commonwealth of Nations and in Canada which serves a philanthropic purpose. They have served in this country for over 50 years and have a fine record of service and achievement. Many, many people have been trained and have dedicated themselves to work in the Order in the interests of the people of this country. Many people also receive benefit from the Order, proving its work to be of great human interest. Consequently, there are many people who follow closely the work of this Order and who look forward to the enactment of the legislation sought at this time.

Honourable senators, this bill has great importance. It comes to us because of change and growth, and because of the success and progress of the Order of St. John.

In this world there are forces of good and forces of evil, and I think we can say that the Order of St. John is one of the great forces of good. It is a long established and active Order; it has a great history. It was a militant order during the Crusades, but it has always been beneficent.

It brings to my mind the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, which dates back to early times. I think it was in 1882 that the society obtained the privilege of rebuilding that hospital, and it has been a place of valuable service during the conflicts in the Middle East. When the disease trachoma, an eye infection, was so prevalent in that country that it caused disaster, the hospital was turned into an ophthalmic hospital. That ophthalmic hospital is operating now in the City of Jerusalem, and it is one of the foundations of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The St. John Ambulance Association has been working in every province of Canada for over 50 years without reward of any kind. That represents to me a fine expression of Christian chivalry.

The principal purpose of this bill is to provide the corporation with objects and powers appropriate to the only function it has in fact been fulfilling since 1946, namely, that of a bare trustee for the Priory, holding title to property beneficially owned by the Priory, as more particularly set out in the recitals in the preamble of the bill, and in connection therewith to define the trusts upon which the corporation holds such property.

The legislation which the bill amends is chapter 145 of the Statutes of Canada of 1914, by which the General Council of the