

Customs Act

Mr. Campney: Yes, but the act as it now stands does not cover the reserve navy or the auxiliary air force with respect to annual training. In other words, strictly speaking, members of these services might be met with possible deductions from their sessional allowance. I think it is an inadvertence. I do not think it was ever intended that it should be that way, but that portion of the act which excuses such persons from having deductions made from their sessional allowance when engaged in training only mentions the army.

Mr. Harkness: If I understand the minister correctly, his contention was that passing eight matters concerning national defence in one act made it more convenient for the members of the armed services. Is that correct?

Mr. Campney: Yes, not only in respect of administration but in acquainting members of the forces as to changes which have been made.

Mr. Harkness: From my personal experience in the armed services it seems to me that it would have exactly the reverse effect. When each of these eight separate matters covered by five acts gets into the hands of members of the armed services they will have to be related back to the particular sections of the act to which they apply. In other words, I think it would considerably complicate matters as far as members of the armed services are concerned rather than making things more simple. It would mean a great deal more difficulty with respect to making amendments in Q.R.O. or whatever document the particular branch of the armed services happened to be using. I cannot see that argument at all.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Campney thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No 80, respecting the Canadian forces.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CUSTOMS ACT**AMENDMENT PERMITTING MINISTER TO APPRAISE GOODS ON WEIGHTED AVERAGE**

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue) moved the second reading of Bill No. 29, to amend the Customs Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, upon the introduction of this bill amending the Customs Act, on first reading, I gave a rather lengthy and comprehensive statement, which perhaps is not the usual custom. At that time I discussed the principle of the bill which, I understand, is usually discussed on the motion for second reading, with Mr. Speaker in the chair.

In view of the statement I made at that time, I have nothing further to add at this time on the principle of the bill.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, there are some aspects in the way in which this bill has been introduced with such urgency which are worthy of comment. I think all hon. members will be prepared to accord urgency to the matter under discussion. It is not without significance I am sure that there is no reference to this subject in the throne speech. No mention is made there of any intention on the part of the government to introduce amendments to the Customs Act. It is evident that the decision of the government to present this measure to the house must have been arrived at in very recent days.

As a matter of fact, sir, it was on November 16, when receiving delegations, representative not only of employers but also of textile labour organizations, that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) and the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann) indicated that the cabinet then had under consideration amendments to the Customs Act to deal with the subject of dumping.

Mr. McCann: Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the hon. member may I interrupt to state that if he will read the speech from the throne carefully he will see that this is stated clearly:

Other measures which will be placed before you for consideration include bills respecting the Canadian forces—

And then, after reciting a list of legislation, the following:

—the Customs Act, the Excise Act, the Excise Tax Act,—

And so on.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the minister's correction on that. I had read it, and if it escaped my attention I am glad to have the minister point it out to me. Nevertheless I do recall the occasion to which I have just now made reference when, upon receiving delegations, the minister and his colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce indicated that amendments to the Customs Act in relation to dumping were then under consideration.

Sir, in my submission there has been a great deal of delay and a great deal of denial on this subject which does not accord at all with the light in which the bill is now placed before us. There is a very strong contrast between the way in which the bill is now presented to us and the attitude indicated by the government on this subject in times past.

The minister has made reference to the statement he made to the house on December