

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: But another clause is inserted.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: Giving them two years instead of one.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The appeal is ample.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: It will be a shocking thing if, by the adoption of this report, this discussion is brought to a conclusion and the House is not given an opportunity to discuss the Bill. If that is the effect of adopting the report, I say that it is a shocking state of affairs, and that it would be most unwise.

What I desire is to have the House go into Committee of the Whole and discuss the Bill clause by clause. Then let us consider the report of this Committee on each clause. We may find ourselves in agreement on a number of the clauses; very well, let us pass them; but let us have some discussion on those clauses which the Committee proposes to strike out or to seriously alter. I do not think the members agree that, by the adoption of this report, we should put an end to all discussion.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: If I am in order, I would like to raise my protest as forcibly as I can. We are having a repetition of what happened last Session. Many of us—and the Senators from Manitoba will bear me out, I think—have had deputation after deputation of returned soldiers interviewing us in Winnipeg and here, and stating that they were not satisfied with the present Pension Act. Last year the Bill was brought in, as this one has been, in the last days of the Session.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think it came in a month before the closing, and went to a special Committee that sat for a number of days.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: I think I am correct when I say that it may have been before the Committee, but that it was not presented to the House until almost the very end of the Session.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: One day.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: The same thing is occurring now. This Bill came yesterday, I think.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: This morning.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: And we are asked this afternoon, at the very close of the Session, to consider the Bill and to give

satisfaction to the soldiers and to the country. It cannot be done.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Honourable gentlemen, I think we should remember that this Bill has received the consideration of the House of Commons before coming to us. Apparently it is a very important piece of legislation affecting a great many people in this country. We have heard the report of the Committee which emasculates the whole Bill. It seems to me that it is a somewhat drastic undertaking to attempt to get the consent of this House to the emasculation of this Bill, thus rendering it of no effect, without any explanation whatever. It may be that the Committee is justified in its action, but to ask this House to practically wipe out the Bill without any explanation being given is an unheard-of proceeding. I think we are entitled to an explanation, and if we can get it only by going into Committee, I think that is what we ought to do.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: I appreciate what has been said by the honourable gentlemen who have preceded me, and I realize that it would be very unfair to allow the motion to carry without any explanation being given to members who are vitally interested in this question. I believe the amendments ought to be explained.

I protest, as the honourable gentleman from Boissevain (Hon. Mr. Schaffner) has done, against the bringing in of this Bill at the eleventh hour. Surely this House realizes that this Bill is of vital importance to thousands of men who have made great sacrifices. This House is anxious to do what is right by the returned men, I know, and it is unfortunate that this Bill should come down at this late hour. When you look at the many clauses of the Bill, you will realize that it is absolutely impossible to grasp the real meaning of them and of the amendments my honourable friend has presented to this House. We should have some explanation to enable us to arrive at something like a fair conclusion. We may agree to the amendments if we know what they are. I believe that the Bill was in such shape when it came to us that it should have been amended. The mere fact that the Bill comes to us endorsed by the House of Commons is no guarantee to this House that it ought to become law. We have had to amend so many Bills that have come from that House that in my judgment that is no justification for saying that the Bill ought to go through as it is.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: I have no intention of not having the Bill considered in Com-