

Mr. MEIGHEN: Undoubtedly, but we are bound in honour to live up to the terms of our convention, and as I stated to the hon. member, I am satisfied that the terms of that convention were satisfactory. Naturally inasmuch as the enforcement of them bears upon citizens of the province, I presume the provincial authorities are not anxious to assume any greater share of that than they should. That is the general attitude. I realize there is no objection to this Bill; but if it passes, and if, hereafter, by the efforts of the hon. gentlemen or otherwise, the legislatures of the provinces can be induced to bring their laws into conformity and to undertake the enforcement just as the other provinces are doing that will be much more satisfactory to the department and make a much better system all round.

Mr. FIELDING: I do not anticipate any trouble, unless it be on the matter of expense, concerning which all our Provincial Governments are sensitive. I know that this class of legislation has been regarded very favourably in Nova Scotia in days gone by, and I feel quite satisfied that if an effort is made the two Governments can be brought into harmony in the matter.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

WAR EXPENDITURES—\$350,000,000 VOTE.

On the motion of Sir Thomas White (Acting Prime Minister), Bill No. 68, for granting to His Majesty aid for demobilization and other purposes, was read the second time and the House went into Committee thereon, Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

On section 2—payment of three hundred and fifty million dollars may be made:

Mr. McKENZIE: I do not want to press the objection, but I think this Bill should not come before the House until after the minister had made his Budget Speech, because it involves the giving of a very full explanation of the expenditures of Canada, particularly the war expenditures, from the commencement of the war down to the present time. I think the Committee and the House and the country would like to know how the moneys derived from the different loans have been expended in con-

[Mr. McKenzie.]

nection with the war, and how we stand generally in respect of our war and other expenditures. Possibly the minister intends to give us that information now, but I rather thought he told us not very long ago that he did not intend to divide his Budget Speech into two sections. For that reason I really think the consideration of this Bill should not be taken up until after the Budget Speech has been delivered. If the minister intends to go on with the Bill now, I trust that he will give the Committee the fullest possible explanation of our expenditure, particularly in respect of the war, the proceeds of the different loans, and what he proposes to do with the moneys which he will obtain under this Bill. It is quite true the minister may have been giving an explanation of these matters from time to time, but we have been so intent on winning the war that, speaking for myself, and I suppose that in this I am like the average Canadian citizen, I do not remember the details. Now that the war is over, I think it would be well to have a thorough reckoning of our borrowings and expenditures in connection with the war.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: My hon. friend will recall that when the Committee of the Whole House had under consideration the resolution which preceded this Bill, in accordance with a practice which has been followed by the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) during the years of the war, I made a statement as comprehensive as was possible of the expenditure upon the war from the war appropriation during the past year, and also placed upon Hansard in such detail as was possible an estimate of the expenditure which the Government expects to be obliged to make during the present fiscal year in connection with demobilization and for purposes arising out of the war. My hon. friend will find that statement in Hansard of this session, unrevised edition, beginning at page 1404. I do not regard it as at all necessary that the consideration of this Bill should await the bringing down of the Budget. The Budget statement deals with the expenditures for the past year and estimates the expenditure for the coming year; shows the amount of revenue received during the past year and indicates the amount which it is expected will be received for the fiscal year in which it is delivered, together with the proposals of the Government for additional taxation to meet the requirements as disclosed. I informed the hon. member for Chateauguay-Huntingdon (Mr. Robb) that