

would indicate that it is possible for people who had an ulterior object in view to institute a tag day under false pretenses, so to speak.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Those tag days must be authorized by the different municipalities.

Mr. NESBITT: No, not in all cases. There are hospital tag days, for instance—

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: But they have to get the permission of the municipal councils.

Mr. NESBITT: No.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: They do in the cities.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: This applies only to appeals for the purpose of raising or attempting to raise money for any war charity by promoting any bazaar, sale, entertainment or exhibition, or by any similar means. On the face of it, I should say it would not apply to a tag day, because that is not the raising of money by a bazaar, sale, entertainment, or exhibition.

Mr. OLIVER: It does not seem to me that it has been made altogether clear just what object the Government desires to attain by this legislation. Clause (a) of subsection 1 of section 3 provides that the war charity is either exempt from registration or is registered under the Act. What are the conditions that exempt a war charity from registration? I have read clause (b) of subsection 1 several times and I am unable to understand what it is there for or what is intended to be accomplished by it. I would like the minister to say definitely what is the object sought to be attained.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The purpose is to protect the public against appeals which, although purporting to be for war funds, may not as a matter of fact be for war funds but for the benefit of individuals. The Bill has a further object the placing of the organizations in this country which are appealing to the public for contributions in respect of war charities, within the knowledge of the Government. This, I think, is a very necessary step.

In Great Britain they have an Act similar to this. It has been necessary since the outbreak of the war to cause these war charities to be registered. Otherwise, my hon. friend will, I think, admit that it may be that we will have organizations purporting to be raising money for the war and in reality raising money for themselves.

[Mr. Graham.]

My remarks, of course, would not apply to a great fund such as the Patriotic Fund or the Red Cross Fund to whom the minister will, as a matter of course, grant exemption from registration. But it is thought advisable by the Government that it should be aware of these organizations making appeals for funds, and, secondly, that the public should be protected, in so far as it is possible to protect them by a legislative enactment such as this, from frauds which may be practised upon them.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Has it come to the knowledge of the minister that there have been any frauds practised to any extent in Canada since the war broke out?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Not to my personal knowledge. There have been brought to my attention certain frauds in connection with the administration of a particular fund.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The objection I see to this is that it seems to interfere with those spontaneous efforts which are made by people all over the country by means of which large amounts have been raised since the war began. I take it that it would apply to fêtes where the people are invited to join together and contribute and where they do contribute. These innocent opportunities of raising money have resulted in very considerable sums being contributed. If it is proposed to prevent affairs of that kind without registering and obtaining the authority of the minister, it is going to interfere to a very considerable extent with those splendid spontaneous efforts which the people have been making since the war began.

Mr. NESBITT: I personally agree with the objects of the Bill because I think it is wise that there should be some regulation of these various charities that are gotten up. I suppose that organizations like the Daughters of the Empire and the Red Cross could be exempted as a whole and action would not be necessary for each particular section to secure exemption. Nearly all the charities are gotten up under the auspices of the Red Cross or the Daughters of the Empire. I suppose it will not interfere with any particular section acting under the association. It would appear to me as if the intent of the Bill is good if it does not interfere with that sort of organization. In reading it over, I do not see that it does.

Mr. MACDONALD: It must be conceded that since the war began there have been several instances where it would have been desirable if Government supervision or regu-