

being revoked; 616 will be allowed to expire with the expiry of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act, and some 100 can be re-enacted under the authority of existing statutes which are not of an emergency character. That totals slightly under 5,000 orders.

Of the remaining orders in council, some 1,500 odd deal with war-duty supplemental pay for government employees. These are being examined individually with a view to terminating the supplements where the special war duties have come to an end, reclassifying the civil servants where the special duties will continue indefinitely, and having bills ready for consideration next year in cases where the government feels it might be proper to recommend legislation to parliament to take the place of the orders.

That accounts for about 6,500 out of the 7,187 orders in council. The remaining ones are those which the Prime Minister indicated as constituting the real body of the government's existing emergency powers. They number 709. Of this number, approximately 225 have already been placed before parliament at the present session in the form of draft legislation relating to such subjects as war crimes, unemployment insurance, control of atomic energy, veterans affairs, demobilization and rehabilitation of our service men.

There remain 484 orders in council, and it is these which may continue to be classed as conferring emergency powers at the close of this session. They include some which are merely minor amendments of other orders appearing in the same group. It is not possible to state for what period of time each of the powers conferred by this group may be required while world conditions remain critical, or what statutory authority may have to be sought in some cases at the next session. So far as is known at present, about 268 of the orders fall within this latter category. They relate to such subjects as the labour code, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, rent control, and so on.

As I said, the purpose of the bill is to extend to sixty days after parliament meets in 1947 the period within which these orders in council shall continue in force. In other words, parliament must enact legislation to replace them within sixty days after the next session of parliament begins. I suggest that under these circumstances this house can be of very considerable service. Honourable members are aware of what normally happens at the opening of parliament: the other house takes several weeks to debate the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, and if the new legislation were to be introduced there in all probability

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it would not reach finality within the sixty-day period contemplated by this bill. I venture, therefore, to suggest to the government that it may be wise to have some of that legislation introduced in this chamber at the beginning of next session, so that we may deal with it in such way as to permit of its being presented in the House of Commons as soon as that house has concluded the debate on the Address.

I move the second reading of the bill.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, I am sure it will be very welcome news, not only to members of parliament but to Canadians generally, that the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act will terminate on the 31st of March, 1947. This is the statute which continues in effect the emergency powers contained in the War Measures Act of 1939. During the war no one could reasonably object to the government taking advantage of this emergency legislation, but with the end of hostilities considerable regret was expressed that the government still felt it necessary to carry on by order in council rather than by a return to peacetime procedure. I certainly have no objection to the bill as outlined by the honourable gentleman.

He has made an excellent suggestion—that much of the legislation proposed for next session to give statutory force to the remaining orders in council might well be introduced in the Senate. It could be dealt with much more expeditiously here than in the other house, due to the fact, as he has stated, that so much time there would be devoted to debate on the Speech from the Throne.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved the third reading of the bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

MILITIA PENSION BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 392, an Act to amend the Militia Pension Act.

He said: Honourable senators, the purpose of this bill is to bring the present Militia Pension Act into conformity with the Civil Service Superannuation Act. The bill was drafted by a committee established by the Treasury Board to bring the provisions of the Militia Pension Act more into conformity with those