

Act might be regarded as a residuary measure that guarantees the power of the Governor in Council to give good title to all Crown lands. The Ordnance and Admiralty Lands Act has to do with Crown lands that are necessary for the defence of Canada. It provides that the Governor in Council may direct that any Crown land be declared to be necessary for the defence of Canada. Such land may not then be sold, but it may be leased, rented or occupied in some manner short of sale, as the Governor in Council directs. Attached to this Act there is a schedule setting out the lands at present declared to be necessary for the defence of Canada.

This bill incorporates all the main provisions in the Acts I have just mentioned. Sections 1 to 6, inclusive, incorporate the present provisions of the Public Lands Grants Act, in slightly amended form.

Section 3 of the present Act applies only to four provinces. The new section 3 is intended to apply to all the provinces that have abolished words of limitation in their conveying.

Paragraph (b) of section 4 is new. It provides that the Governor in Council may make regulations granting authority to a minister to transfer an interest in lands under his administration and affected by this act. Paragraphs (c) and (d) are taken from the Dominion Lands Act, and authorize the setting of fees and the charging of interest.

Sections 7 and 8, dealing with defence lands, embody present provisions of the Ordnance and Admiralty Lands Act.

The remaining sections deal with the correction of grants. The procedure set out is adopted from the present Dominion Lands Act, and prevents a title to lands granted by the Crown from being voided because of any mistake in the grant.

May I say to the honourable senator from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) that, had the Committee on Natural Resources been organized, I should have moved that the bill be referred to that committee. In the circumstances I think it would be wise to have a reference to the Banking and Commerce Committee; and I repeat that every senator, whether a member of that committee or not, is welcome to attend the committee's sittings.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** Can the honourable leader tell us what lands are covered by paragraph (b) of section 4? I think that all lands outside the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are vested in the respective provincial governments, so this paragraph evidently has reference to land within control of the federal government. I should like to be informed as to just what lands these are.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I cannot specifically answer my honourable friend's question. I fancy the paragraph must apply to lands outside the organized provinces, in the areas of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and the district of Keewatin, together with any lands inside provincial areas but whose ownership has for one reason or another been retained by the federal government.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** National parks, for instance.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I assume that information can be got in committee.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** Yes.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** The next bill on the order paper for second reading, Bill C, deals with lands in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, so evidently the bill before us has to do with lands inside provincial boundaries.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** As my honourable friend says, the information may be obtained from departmental officials in committee.

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

#### REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**Hon. Mr. Robertson** moved that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to.

#### TERRITORIAL LANDS BILL

##### SECOND READING

**Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson** moved the second reading of Bill C, an Act respecting Crown Lands in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

He said: Honourable senators, the Dominion Lands Act originally applied to lands held by the federal government in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and to the Peace River block in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. Also, the Governor in Council was empowered, by section 4 of the Act, to make regulations for the disposal of land in the Railway Belt of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

In 1930 the passing of the National Parks Act and the Acts respecting the transfer of certain lands to the provinces, made the Dominion Lands Act inapplicable to all areas except the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory. Consequently, many of the provisions in the Dominion Lands Act have had no application for a considerable time. It is the purpose of the bill before us to