

follow will be only half the resolution, so to speak. I do not think we should agree to that now. I think we should follow it up in the proper way. This changes the whole bill.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was simply trying to meet my hon. friend's wishes. If he prefers not to proceed now, this resolution will be withdrawn to-day and another substituted for it to-morrow with the few words I have indicated omitted. The minister does not wish to have those words form part of the resolution. When the bill is introduced he will state exactly what its provisions are. The bill is prepared and the minister is ready to introduce it to-morrow so that it can be discussed on Monday, but the resolution would have to be advanced one stage to-day. Otherwise, we would have to wait until Tuesday, before a statement could be made on the bill.

Mr. PERLEY: It would not be the same bill that is indicated by this resolution. There would be a change of policy.

Mr. COLDWELL: I think we should agree to it, because if the resolution is withdrawn, and the government has the power to do it to make the changes, it would mean another delay. I must say that we did not hear what was said just now, but lately we have not been listening to a lot of the discussion that has taken place across the floor of the chamber because some of it seemed entirely too long and of little consequence.

Motion as amended agreed to.

#### THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, 5th March, 1942.

Sir:—I have the honour to inform you that the Right Hon. Sir Lyman P. Duff, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to-day, Thursday the 5th March, at 5.50 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. C. Pereira,  
Assistant Secretary to the  
Governor General.

#### CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

##### REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WHO ENLIST IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

The house resumed on Wednesday, March 4, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mitchell for the second reading of Bill No. 5, to provide for the reinstatement in civil employment of individuals who enlist for service in his majesty's forces or who perform essential war employment.

Mr. A. W. ROEBUCK (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, the house is addressing itself to Bill No. 5, the principle of which is to secure to men in the active armed forces of Canada reinstatement in the civil positions which they occupied prior to enlistment upon their honourable discharge from military service. I wish to express my hearty sympathy with the object and purposes of this bill. The plight of the returned soldier, after months or perhaps years in the routine of camp and perhaps the din of battle, coming back to Canada and endeavouring to reinstate and reestablish himself in civil life, is one which should commend itself to the sympathy of all members of this house. To me this has always been and is now a matter of special and peculiar interest. I can imagine no more difficult and undesirable position in which to be placed than to be told that your time is worthless or your work is no good, that for you there is no place in the sun.

The last war, Mr. Speaker, was a terrible disaster. Undoubtedly, when you add up all the factors, I have described it correctly as a great disaster. But it does seem to me, and I will venture the statement that the long period of unemployment which followed the great war was a greater disaster; that, notwithstanding the loss of life of the great war and its tremendous cost in human flesh and blood, the moral degradation, the destruction of human fibre, was greater in those years of extensive unemployment than it was in the fighting period. That is perhaps a broad statement, but I believe that most hon. members who went through that period and associated with and saw the struggles of those attempting to find work to support their families, will agree with me.

It would be very easy indeed to criticize destructively the weakness and the insufficiency of this bill, if any public purpose were to be served by so doing. There are three outstanding weaknesses, or shall I say insufficiencies, in the bill.

In the first place, the bill seeks to grant its benefits only to those who held positions before