

Mr. MONTAGUE. Does that apply only to the inside service? Why should a packer or sorter in the city of Ottawa, in the inside service, get more than one in the city of Toronto? If the hon. gentleman passes that it must apply to all.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I think in the Post Office Department the salary of messengers in the outside service is already \$600.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It is not in the Customs.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. On page 195 of the Civil Service List you will see, letter carriers, sorters, stampers, messengers, box collectors and porters get salaries from \$360 to \$600. When that clause was drafted it was not necessary to extend \$600 to the outside service, because they already get \$600.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think in the Customs branch, where men work very hard, the salary of messengers and porters is \$500.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. In the Customs it is \$200 and \$500

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Perhaps we should make it clear that it shall apply to messengers generally.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the Minister of Finance had better make a little revision of that whole matter. He will find that goes a long distance, and if it is fair for one outside man who works so many hours at manual labour to go up to \$600, it is equally fair for another outside man who works at manual labour for an equal number of hours.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Suppose we take the clause in its amended form to apply to messengers, packers and sorters, and I will look into it and see what other classes there are.

On section 11, subsection 3,

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. Minister of Finance know how many of them are eligible?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, I could not give my hon. friend the information.

Mr. FOSTER. Why say 1901?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The idea is not to make it a permanency.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I thought the supply had become exhausted.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There are one or two yet, I think.

On section 12,

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. In regard to section 12, I want to make a slight change in the phraseology. In the fourth and fifth lines, instead of saying, 'under the provision of the Civil Service Act,' I propose

Mr. FIELDING.

to say 'than the minimum salary of the class.' I beg to move that the section be amended in this way.

Motion agreed to.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I propose that the Bill be allowed to remain in committee, and that it be not reported at present, that we may give it further consideration.

Committee rose and reported progress.

SUPPLY—THE PACIFIC CABLE.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa). Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair, I want to bring to the notice of the House, and of the government, a matter which I deem to be of considerable importance. My justification for doing so is the information contained in certain despatches which I shall read in a moment. I feel further justified in trespassing upon the time of the House, because I have been asked by the Board of Trade of Ottawa, a body which displays a good deal of intelligent zeal in the public interest in dealing with questions of importance, to lay before the House a series of resolutions passed by this board of trade some months ago, and which I have had in my possession for some time. The series of resolutions refer to the scheme for the construction of the Pacific cable. The resolutions read as follows:

Resolution No. 1.—That while the proposed Pacific cable would foster trade and intercolonial intercourse, it would at the same time constitute the initial link in a system of cables to all British possessions around the globe, that such a system would form a new bond of Imperial unity of inestimable value.

1. That this board regards it of vital importance that the Pacific cable should be completed as a state undertaking, without delay.

2. That in view of the great object to be attained, this board is strongly of the opinion that it would be wise policy to make full provision for ultimate state ownership in any arrangements hereafter made to lay cables by private companies between British possessions in any part of the globe.

3. That this board recommends that the principle of state ownership be especially provided for in the cable proposed to be laid by a private company between South Africa and Australia.

Resolution No. 2.—That this board attaches so much importance to the resolution respecting the Pacific cable, that it especially requests the members for the city of Ottawa to bring the subject before the government and parliament.

Resolution No. 3.—That a copy of the resolution respecting the Pacific cable be transmitted to the principal chambers of commerce in the United Kingdom, with the request that they will move the home government to reserve the right to Her Majesty to assume possession of the cable in any arrangement for laying a cable by a private company between South Africa and Australia.