

a pretty good day's work. He sits four days in the week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday is reserved for interlocutory motions and office work, and that sort of thing. That order of procedure, which has been going on without interruption since January 8 last, will be continued up until the Easter recess, and will no doubt continue indefinitely. I think it will take roughly six months to handle the reserve of cases to be heard. After that time I believe we should be in a position to take the cases as they come.

Honourable senators, my general summary is that I am very well satisfied with the speed and the manner with which we are progressing, and with the effectiveness of the new rules and regulations.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: I should like to ask the honourable senator how the Divorce Committee actually deals with the recommendations of the Commissioner. Surely the committee does not read all the evidence. Does the committee read or discuss it when the recommendation of the Commissioner is in question? I should like to know just how the committee works.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: That is a good question, and I can assure you that it calls attention to a problem. Of course, every member of the committee should not and could not be called upon to read every one of these reports. So far, I have done the whole job myself, because I have thought that it was a one-man job. At the present moment I have a number of reports, and three members of the committee each has a number of reports which they will read.

Attached to each report is a list of the rules which the Commissioner must observe in the course of a hearing. For instance, the marriage must be proved. The domicile of the parties must be established. He must hear the evidence, and that evidence, according to his summary, must be sufficient to justify, on the grounds to which we are limited, the granting of the petition, that is, the passing of a resolution dissolving the marriage. In addition, he must cover the question of connivance, collusion, etc. He must see that the children of the marriage are provided for, as far as it is possible for us to go in that regard.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: They are all routine matters, are they not?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: All routine, yes. The reports that I have received up to the present time are, I think, models of completeness and conciseness, and are good literary productions by our present Commissioner. Those will be gone over by one of our committee members, and he will take the responsibility of moving

them before the committee and reporting anything he thinks unusual that we should consider. Where a question arises, that matter comes from the Commissioner to me and is specified as such. I have a pile of cases, I suppose a foot high, at the present moment, in which the evidence and the proposed report have been sent to me with a question seeking my advice. I will go over those as quickly as I can, and give what assistance I can. That is the best answer I can give. I do not know how else we could do it. Certainly, we cannot have every member of the committee read each one of these reports; that is unnecessary. If one does it and takes the responsibility of moving their adoption, I think that is sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: I was more concerned with the actual working of the committee. So far as I can see, it is a one-man committee. What I would like to know is this: if there was a doubtful recommendation, or a recommendation that appeared to you doubtful, what then would be the procedure? Would you call the committee together to act as a tribunal or court of appeal, to reverse a decision or make further recommendations? That is the question in my mind.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Practically speaking, what now happens and what will happen in the future is this: when a question arises in the mind of the Commissioner or in our minds, there is a discussion between the Commissioner and the Chairman, and the problem will in all likelihood be resolved. If there is a conflict between the Chairman and the Commissioner, I assure you it will be referred to the committee and the committee will decide. The rules require the Commissioner to send his report to the committee, and that the report be examined by the committee before it is presented to the house. Every one of these routine cases does not need to be examined by every member of the committee, but each will be passed by the committee. As you know, 30 days must elapse between the time we pass a resolution and the time it becomes effective, and in that period, if one of the parties objects to the resolution and files a petition for a bill of divorce, the resolution stands until that petition or the bill has been disposed of. Does that answer your question?

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Yes, thank you.

Hon. Mr. Grosart: There is one question I would like to ask. Does the committee specify to the Commissioner the ground on which the committee recommends that a divorce may be granted?