

information by cable before this, but I have been very much engaged in other matters, and it passed from my mind. I gave instructions this morning to cable to Sir George Perley, and I expect soon to obtain the information the hon. gentleman asks for. I do not know whether the hon. member was here when I referred to the Order in Council creating this office?

Mr. PUGSLEY: Yes.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: That Order in Council requires the authority of council for the purpose mentioned; and based on that consideration, and knowing what has been done in that regard, I reached the conclusion, which I still entertain, that my hon. friend from Victoria and Haliburton (Sir Sam Hughes) was misinformed as to the alleged excess of employees which he mentions. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Pugsley) misunderstood my allusion to the United States. The United States was spoken of by the hon. member (Sir Sam Hughes) as one of the two great free democracies which had survived for over one hundred years, and, in the same breath, he said that the Bill created an autocracy, because these three ministers were not required to go back, during the war, for re-election. I merely pointed out in passing, by way of illustration, that United States ministers are not required to go to the country for election at all, and, therefore, it does not seem to be a necessary condition, if we grant the premises as laid down, namely, that they are one of the two great free nations, and an exemplar of the highest form of democracy.

Mr. PUGSLEY: My right hon. friend, perhaps, heard the Minister of Militia also state that Sir George Perley is occupying in the city of London some five or six buildings. The statement is very specific. I remember when my right hon. friend used to inform the House that there was no man whose statements were more to be relied upon than the ex-Minister of Militia.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think I have heard my hon. friend say the same thing.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I have heard my right hon. friend say that the ex-Minister of Militia, when he was performing the duties of Minister of Militia, was one of the great military geniuses of the country, a gentleman whose word could always be relied upon. Well, the Minister of Militia, as a responsible member of this Parliament, has made the statement that five or six build-

[Sir Robert Borden.]

ings in the city of London to-day are occupied by the enormous staff with which Sir George Perley has surrounded himself. My right hon. friend says Sir George Perley could not have done that. The ex-Minister of Militia says that he has done it. It is not the first time that things have been done on the other side with which the Government have not been entirely familiar. Perhaps the want of information on the part of the Government results from the overseas minister being so busy that he has not communicated with my right hon. friend on the subject. At all events, I am disposed to rely on that positive statement until it is authoratively denied.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I move that section 3 of the Bill be struck out.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: For what reason?

Mr. LEMIEUX: Because it is a departure from the principles of parliamentary government, and because it is creating a very dangerous precedent. I believe that at least one of the two secretaries, the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs—as was impliedly admitted this afternoon—instead of doing the work of that office, is preparing campaign literature. I am informed that one of the statements which appeared in the press this evening was issued by him yesterday—a very vicious statement, I must say, an appeal to the prejudices and passions of the people, in view of the next general election. On the whole, the right hon. gentleman has not given the committee and the country sufficient reason for this departure from a time-honoured constitutional principle.

Mr. MACDONALD: We must not forget that the statement was made to the Government press throughout this country when the announcement of the appointment of the under-secretaries was made that these gentlemen would serve without any compensation. To provide now for salaries seems to be a breach of faith with the public. In regard to Sir George

10 p.m. Perley, I assume that he is drawing a salary as High Commissioner for Canada in London.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Sir George Perley has never received any salary as High Commissioner for Canada in London. I have stated that in the hearing of my hon. friend at least half a dozen times in the last three or four years.

Mr. MACDONALD: We vote the money every year.