

INTERNAL ECONOMY AND CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS.

SIXTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ADOPTED.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON moved the adoption of the sixth report of the Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Before the motion is adopted, I should like to call attention to the report itself. At page 942 of the Minutes, I find the report, which reads as follows:

The committee, on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts have the honour to make their fifth report, as follows:

1. Your committee recommend that the pay of the sessional messengers of the Senate be made uniform with the pay given to the sessional messengers of the House of Commons, and that this recommendation be made to apply to the present session from the 1st day of April.

That is putting it at the beginning of the financial year. A few days ago we adopted a similar report based on the same principle, and the principle which underlies this report, and adopted by the Senate, is that our officers should be placed on the same footing as the corresponding officers in the House of Commons. Will the report place a deputy head or messenger here on the same footing as a messenger in the House of Commons? Why is that? Because in the framing of our classification last year, we forgot an important point. We forgot to comply with the law. In the House of Commons they complied with the law. We took the salaries which our officers received at the time being as the basis of classification, and in doing that, we relied upon article 136 of the Civil Service Act of 1908, which says:

Except as herein otherwise provided the salary of any person placed in the inside service by or under this Act, or to whom the provisions thereof are made applicable, shall be that which he is then receiving, and the said salary shall be in accordance with the classification.

I call attention of the hon. member to the fact that this clause applies only in the case where there is nothing in the law—except as herein otherwise provided. If there is something in the law that provides for the classification we are bound to take

the classification made by the law. Our classification is determined by article 5, of the same Civil Service Act, which says:

The inside service under the deputy heads, excluding messengers, porters, sorters and packers, etc., shall be divided into three divisions.

That is the law. The first division shall be divided into first, subdivision (a). Who are the persons which the law obliges us to put in that division? They are named here: Subdivision (a) consisting of officers having the rank of deputy heads, but not being deputy-heads, administering departments, assistant deputy ministers, and the principal technical and administrative and executive officers. These are the persons who by law are entitled to come in division No. 1, subdivision (a). In our classification, some of these persons were put in that class. But some others, who appear to have salaries lower than those, are put in another class, on account of their salary. I contend that we cannot take the salary as a basis, only when nothing in the law obliges us to take the course that I am pointing out. Subdivision (b) of division 1, consisting of the lesser technical and administrative and executive officers, including chief clerk, now holding office, and not eligible for subdivision (a). By law we are obliged to put in the first division all the persons in the class which the law has just mentioned, and the second division shall consist of certain other clerks having technical, administrative, executive or other duties which are of the same character as, but of less importance and responsibility, than those of the first division. This division shall be divided into two subdivisions (a) and (b). Then comes the third division. The third division shall consist of other clerks in the service whose duties are copying and routine work, under direct supervision, of less importance than that of the second division, and this division is divided into classes (a) and (b). That is clause 5. The clerks are dealt with in clause 6, and what does it say: Clerks now holding the rank of first-class shall be placed in subdivision (a) of the second division. Clerks now holding the rank of senior second class shall be placed in subdivision (b) of the second division. Clerks now holding