

the figures referred to by the Chairman of the Committee on Debates and Reporting (Hon. Mr. Poirier) were those for the year ending March 31, 1926. For the year ending March 31, 1927, we have the salary of the Translator, who was appointed at a salary of \$4,200 per annum. If this report were to be carried, we should have also the salaries of one or two translators, as the case might be, and, in addition, a great expense would be incurred in the cost of printing, which we should have to pay to the Printing Bureau.

I desired to make that statement so that honourable members of the Senate might understand the position, and I would like to say that I think a matter of this kind should have been brought to the attention of the Clerk and myself before it was submitted in the form of the present report.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: May I say a word as to the matter of correcting proofs? If we talked over the question it would be found that there is no reason why the French members should not do to the French version what the English members are doing to the English version. There would be no additional cost in the printing, because there would be only one copy sent to the press.

As for our failure to notify his Honour the Speaker and the Clerk, it is regrettable that we did not do so, but there was not the faintest idea of doing wrong when we moved in the very way that all Committees do. If Standing Committees exist in this House it is for the purpose of taking the initiative in matters appertaining to them. We thought there was no reason to consult the Finance Committee, since the money is voted, indeed over-voted. We thought we knew as much as others about the French language and what is proper translation. I must pay his Honour the Speaker the compliment of saying that he has learned the language remarkably well, especially as to pronunciation; and I do not doubt that the Clerk is a French scholar too. But we thought we were as efficient to judge of good French as those gentlemen are, or as my honourable friend from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel). He is a scholar—a Latin scholar, too—of the first magnitude, I am glad to tell you. In not notifying these gentlemen, our purpose was not to offend any of them; we simply thought we were within our rights, and I still think we are moving in the right way. The recommendation will come from his Honour the Speaker and the Clerk, acting as Minister and Deputy Minister. The appointment will date from the opening of next Session, and we shall have something to which we are entitled—

The Hon. the SPEAKER.

the services of a good French translator. I again say that Mr. Potvin is a splendid translator, but in a rush he has a right to get help. The help is not what it should be, and we have a right to see that it should be.

The amendment of Hon. Mr. Turriff was agreed to.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE—AMENDMENT DECLARED OUT OF ORDER

The Senate proceeded to consider the amendments made by the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce to Bill 231, an Act to amend the Civil Service Superannuation Act, 1924.

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable gentlemen, when the Civil Service Superannuation Bill, 1924, came before this House, certain changes were made in it. It was thought that a certain group of civil service employees who would be able to derive benefit from the Act, but who were very much in arrears in their payments, or had not contributed at all, to the Superannuation Fund, should pay the arrears, and should pay also interest on the arrears at the rate of 4 per cent annually until they were fully paid up.

Now, as Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Commerce I have been asked, and I desire, to call your attention to the fact that by the acceptance of the amendment now proposed we accept the Bill as it came to us in 1924. That means, according to the information that was placed before the Committee by the Finance Department, that there will be refunded to those who have already made payments of arrears, something, but not very much, over half a million dollars. We tried to ascertain how much expense it might mean to the country in addition to this half million. The Finance Department said that they were unable to give us that information at the present time, and could not give it to us for some months at least; but as nearly as I could ascertain it myself, the additional expenditure will be some few millions of dollars.

That is the explanation, which, as Chairman of the Banking and Commerce Committee, I desired to make.

Hon. H. W. LAIRD: Honourable gentlemen, one of the clauses of this report of the Committee will impose upon the public Treasury a very large expenditure of money. When announcement was made of the amend-