

Council. In considering Mr. Newcombe's salary, it ought to be borne in mind that he represents this Government before the Privy Council; if we had to employ special counsel to do that important work, the cost in a year would exceed Mr. Newcombe's salary by quite a substantial amount. But in regard to the particular matter that the hon. gentleman speaks of, it was considered that the importance of the questions to be dealt with and the research to be made necessitated this extra assistance, and the three gentlemen named were employed for that purpose. It is but paying them a fair tribute to say that their services were most valuable.

Mr. KYTE: Where was this work done?

Mr. DOHERTY: In Ottawa.

Mr. KYTE: The gentleman from Halifax who took part in this work is a very capable professional man; I find no fault on that score. But the department would have saved his travelling and hotel expenses if they had secured the services of a lawyer in Ottawa instead of sending to Halifax.

Mr. DOHERTY: This gentleman had done work of a somewhat similar nature, and we felt that he was thoroughly suitable to undertake this particular work. As he was available, we did not feel that we should be deterred from obtaining his services simply by the expense of his coming from Halifax to Ottawa.

Mr. MACDONALD: I notice that during the interim between the last session and the present session, the Solicitor General has become a member of the Privy Council. Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to amend the statute by providing that the person filling the office of Solicitor General shall be ex-officio a member of the Privy Council?

Mr. DOHERTY: Not that I am aware of. As I understand the matter, the position of solicitor general remains precisely what it was. Hon. Arthur Meighen has become a member of the Privy Council, but the position of Solicitor General in itself has not been altered; his appointment to the Privy Council does not necessarily involve the Solicitor General ex officio being a member of the Cabinet.

Mr. MACDONALD: I understand, then, that the Solicitor General has been made, in persona, a member of the Privy Council,

and that no legislation affecting the Solicitor General in this respect will be introduced.

Mr. DOHERTY: I do not think any is contemplated at this time; as to what may be done in the future, I am not in a position to say.

Mr. MACDONALD: I regard Mr. Newcombe as one of the ablest men in the Dominion, and I think he performs his duties with satisfaction to the country. I should like to know what is the status of the Solicitor General in the Department of Justice.

Mr. DOHERTY: The statute governing the office of Solicitor General does not, I think, go further than to say that the Solicitor General shall perform such duties in connection with the Department of Justice as may be assigned to him.

Mr. MACDONALD: Has the Solicitor General done any court work during the past year on behalf of the Government?

Mr. DOHERTY: He has appeared for the Government in quite a number of cases since he took office—whether within the last twelve months I should not like to say positively offhand.

Mr. MACDONALD: I understand that the duties of court work, so far as the Department of Justice is concerned, are performed largely by the deputy minister. Has the Solicitor General devoted any special attention to court work?

Mr. DOHERTY: He has devoted attention to certain cases; whether it would be called special attention I would not undertake to say. Up to the present time cases that have gone to Privy Council and cases heard before the Supreme Court have, as a rule, been handled by the deputy minister.

Expenses of litigated matters conducted within the Department of Justice, \$13,000.

Mr. GRAHAM: Are there any cases to go to Privy Council this year?

Mr. DOHERTY: At the present moment I should not like to say positively. We have just disposed of the references with regard to companies, and one or two other cases; I think these are the only ones actually pending before that court.

Mr. GRAHAM: Is the minister settling with the Ontario Government the question of water-powers, or is it going to the Privy Council?

Mr. DOHERTY: Two cases are pending with regard to water-powers; they have not