

Mr. MEIGHEN: I see the point of the leader of the Opposition. Although under clause 3 of the present Bill as I propose to move that it be amended, it is provided that before any employment office is assisted under the Act it must be apparent that the province has not established such an office and that it does not intend to do so, I have no doubt that the Minister of Labour will not object to the restriction that the leader of the Opposition suggests. If the committee is ready to accept it, I am willing that clause 1 be amended by substituting for the word "Minister" the words "Governor General in Council."

Amendment agreed to, and section as amended agreed to.

On section 2—powers of minister:

Mr. MEIGHEN: Just in this connection I think it worth while to observe that I really think Parliament goes too far in demanding the approval of the Governor in Council in details. It results in the clogging of the work of the Cabinet as a whole, and is, I think, in the detriment of the public interest. It is not that any minister has objection, but the inclination of Parliament is, I think, to go too far, not realizing the tremendous volume of matter that necessarily now comes before the Governor in Council for approval. However, I am not saying that with any desire to restrict the tendency in relation to this proposed Act.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No member of this House has a greater objection to Government by Order in Council than I have. I think that many matters should come before Parliament which are now dealt with by the Governor in Council. For the same reason I think that it is very wise to put some sort of check on or exercise some supervision over individual ministers by requiring the approval of the Governor in Council in regard to important matters. I agree that it should not be pushed too far, but when it comes to fixing penalties exceeding \$100 and the like, it is very desirable that the Governor in Council should have a say as well as the minister.

Section agreed to.

On section 3—allotment of moneys appropriated:

Mr. MEIGHEN: When I read this section as it came from the Senate it seemed to me that it was not very well drafted; indeed, that it did not reach the end that

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

was sought. I had it re-drafted as follows, and move that this be substituted for clause 3:

3. Section five of the said Act is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

(2) Notwithstanding anything in subsection one of this section the minister may in any year set aside from the moneys allotted to a province such sum as may seem desirable for the maintenance of employment offices, where none are operated by the Provincial Government, provided that, before any such employment office is assisted under this Act the minister shall be satisfied that the Provincial Government concerned does not propose to establish employment offices in accordance with this Act within a reasonable time, and provided further that the sum so set aside shall be allotted to such employment offices, but in no case shall the allotment exceed one half of the amount expended for the maintenance of such offices.

Amendment agreed to, and section as amended agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

#### THE STAFF OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—ORGANIZATION.

The House again in committee to consider the proposed organization of the staff of the House of Commons, as submitted to the House by His Honour the Speaker on the thirty-first day of March last, resumed from April 8, Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the committee rose, the proposed organization as it affected the Journals branch of the House had not met with the approval of hon. members. Without wishing to withdraw the reasons which I gave at that time as being, in my judgment, sound reasons for the adoption of the organization as then proposed, I feel that in respect to a matter of this kind, which concerns the internal domestic arrangement and the proper working of the staff of the House of Commons, should be if not unanimous agreement more or less unanimity on the part of hon. members as to what the organization scheme ought to effect. For that reason I think, it might perhaps, be better to revert to the practice which obtained for some few years at least prior to the present year, and divide the Journals branch into two sections. I therefore, move:

That clause 'Journals Branch' be amended as follows: That the whole clause be stricken out and the following be substituted therefor:

Journals Branch.

- (a) Chief of English Journals.  
Assistant Chief of English Journals.  
Four officials.  
Sessional assistance as required.