

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF DEPARTMENTS.
NEW DEPARTMENTS CREATED.

On motion of Sir Robert Borden, the House went into committee to consider the following proposed resolution, Mr. Boivin in the Chair:

Resolved, That it is expedient to provide for the appointment of a Secretary of State for External Affairs, a Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and a Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, and that the salary of each of the said ministers shall be \$7,000 per annum; and also to provide for the appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment and that the salary of such Parliamentary Secretary shall be five thousand dollars per annum; and to provide that the several salaries of the persons holding the said offices shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada for the periods during which they have respectively held the offices; and further, to provide that during the present war and for one year thereafter one or more other ministers, not exceeding three, members of the King's Privy Council for Canada, who may be named by the Governor in Council, may be paid such salaries or other remuneration as Parliament may provide, and shall not, by reason thereof, be ineligible as Members of the House of Commons or disqualified to sit or vote therein.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The necessity for making provision for a salary for the Secretary of State arises in this way—the Prime Minister has ceased to be President of the Privy Council, which position has filled for a number of years,—

Sir SAM HUGHES: I regret exceedingly to have to take the lead in asking the right hon. leader of the Government to speak a little louder. Gentlemen behind cannot hear, and I cannot hear.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: So far as the provision of a salary for the Secretary of State for External Affairs is concerned, the necessity arises owing to the Prime Minister having ceased to be President of the Privy Council. By statute it is provided that the Prime Minister shall be Secretary of State for External Affairs, but as he has received in the past a salary as President of the Council, no salary has ever been provided for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. When the present Government was formed in October last the Prime Minister relinquished the post of President of the Council and it was therefore necessary to make some provision for salary for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. A new ministry, that of Immigration and colonisation, has also been established, and a ministry of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, as well as a parliamentary secretaryship to the latter department. This resolution makes the usual provision for these salaries. It is not intended

[Mr. Speaker]

to fill at present the parliamentary secretaryship of the Department of Militia and Defence which has been rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. McCurdy, who has become Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment. So far as the remainder of the resolution is concerned, it makes provision during the present war for a salary to one or more ministers, not exceeding three, who are members of the King's Privy Council for Canada, and who may be named by the Governor in Council. It is provided that they shall be paid such salaries or remuneration as Parliament may provide and that they shall not by reason thereof be ineligible as members of the House of Commons or disqualified to sit or vote therein. This is intended to provide for a case like that of Mr. Maclean, who is Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Reconstruction and Development, but who does not otherwise preside over any department of the Government. It also provides for the case of Senator Robertson, who is a member of the committee and the chairman of a very important sub-committee with respect to labour conditions. I may say that insofar as both these gentlemen are concerned, they have, during the period since they assumed these duties, been as actively engaged in the work of the administration as any other members of the Government. In addition to the duties which I have mentioned as devolving upon Mr. Maclean, he has, during the absence of Sir Thomas White, carried on the work and assumed the responsibilities of the Department of Finance. However, it is in respect to his work as vice-chairman of the committee on reconstruction and development in the past year, in which he has been very actively engaged, that this proposed salary is intended to be provided.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Are these gentlemen named as members of the Privy Council?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Mr. Maclean and Senator Robertson are both members of the King's Privy Council for Canada. They were sworn in as such when they became members of the Government in October last.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: My right hon. friend has not mentioned who is to be the third minister.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN. There is no intention at present to appoint any third minister.