

*High Commissioners Act*

to the high commissioner's office in London; they do deal with that matter under the Department of Immigration. The effect of the change will be to transfer it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, subject however to the provisions of the order in council that will enable it to be dealt with by the high commissioner there. As it stands now there is no doubt that there is a branch of our immigration department in the building, and that the high commissioner exercises his powers by virtue of the old statute. It is true that the name "the Minister of Immigration and Colonization" has disappeared, but the duties are performed by the Minister of Mines and Resources. Under the new bill, he has to carry out the instructions of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and he also is to give effect to any orders in council which may be passed for the purpose of conferring upon him power and authority to do and perform duties which may be therein mentioned.

The only point I desire to make is that as it stands it will require, I conceive, an act on the part of the Minister, Secretary of State for External Affairs, or an order in council, to continue the position that obtains there at the present moment.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What the right hon. the leader of the opposition has in mind is covered I think by subsection (c). He has been referring more particularly to subsection (b). Subsection (c) reads as follows:

(c) subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, supervise the official activities of the various agencies of the Canadian government in the United Kingdom.

Mr. BENNETT: I think that is broad enough to cover all the others.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. The immigration office at the moment I understand is not in the high commissioner's office; it has been moved elsewhere. But under the order in council passed some time ago the supervision of the immigration office was placed under the high commissioner. The situation had therefore been covered in the past under the general order. The only change which in reality is being made is with regard to instructions of a specific kind making it clear that they will go to the High Commissioner through the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. BENNETT: The only reason I raised the question is that the general power was contained in a section of the old act in somewhat different language. It says that he may

[Mr. Bennett.]

carry out such instructions as he receives from time to time respecting the commercial, financial and general interest of Canada in Great Britain and elsewhere. I raised the issue merely for the purpose of directing the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that that is omitted, deliberately I take it, to be covered by subsection (c) of section 3, and the instructions will come from the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

There are two words left out which I think the Prime Minister may regard as valuable, having regard to the appointment from time to time of the high commissioner to Geneva. Those words are "and elsewhere" at the end of the section, which enable us from time to time thus to deal with his position. The words "and elsewhere" are deleted. The minister may desire to send him to France or Switzerland, but if there is a limitation imposed on his authority "in the United Kingdom" I doubt whether the power is conferred upon the minister to give the general directions which might become necessary.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am inclined to think that the government would have power to direct any servant of the crown to go to any place to which it might be desirable to send him on public business. For example we have frequently sent the minister in France to Geneva. I do not think that as matters stand we would need to amend the section.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—Officers and clerks.

Mr. CAHAN: Does this section mean that the officers and clerks in the office of the High Commissioner for Canada at London are to be appointed under the Civil Service Act?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: They have not been appointed under the Civil Service Act in the past, except in a few cases. The minor positions have not been filled by the civil service commission, but some of the higher positions have. It has been found rather difficult, and I think my hon. friend will appreciate the reasons, to expect promotions from the junior positions in the high commissioner's office to the senior ones.

Mr. CAHAN: I was dealing with the exact words of section 4: "There may be appointed in the manner authorized by law." Is there any existing law other than the Civil Service Act under which appointments can