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AT THE SESSION'S CLOSE.

Some Changes in Staffs and a Declaration of Policy.

The closing days of the Sixth Session of the Twelfth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada were made notable, from a Civil Service point of view, by changes in the arrangements for reporting the House of Commons and the Senate. There also appeared on "The Order of the Day" a question from Mr. Proulx (Prescott) and ruling from the Speaker that the honourable gentleman should bring up his question when the House was in Committee of Supply. His remarks and the reply of the Minister of Finance (Sir W. Thomas White) are taken from *Hansard* of Wednesday, May 17, 1916. These cannot be considered as very encouraging to civil servants, and are evidently an invitation to the Service to stand at ease so far as legislation is concerned until the war is over.

Mr. George C. Holland, the dean of shorthand reporters of Canada, who almost ever since Confederation has reported the Senate, retires on a suitable allowance, and will probably take up his permanent residence on a lemon ranch he has established at Chula Vista, Southern California. Mr. Holland of late alone has held the contract for reporting the Senate which was formerly and for many years held by himself and his equally well-known brother, Mr. Andrew Holland, who remains in Ottawa, one of its most prominent citizens. These gentlemen were not only among the very first pioneers in the shorthand art in Canada, but they took a leading part in introducing some of the services which have made possible the great modern work of reporting courts, commissions and legislatures, such, for instance, as the typewriter and the phonograph. With the retirement of Mr. George C. Holland the system of reporting the Senate by contract comes to an end.

The able and painstaking work of another veteran in this line, Mr. Al-

bert Horton, Editor of Debates of the House of Commons, impressed the Senate Debates Committee so favourably that they secured his release from the Commons and his transfer to the service of the Upper House. Mr. Horton will have editorial charge of the reporting of the Senate itself and of the committee of that body, including the one which sits as a court and whose business, unfortunately, is increasing, the Divorce Committee. Between now and next session arrangements will be made for a staff to work under Mr. Horton's direction, which will probably include some of those who have served with Mr. Holland.

The removal of Mr. Horton brings into the position of Editor of Debates for the House of Commons Mr. T. P. Owens, formerly Associate Editor. Mr. Owens has no superior as a reporter in Canada, and his special qualifications for his present position include a thorough newspaper training, a great experience not only in parliamentary reporting but in other shorthand work as well, and a knowledge of Canadian men