

*Translations Bureau—Mr. Dupre*

Mr. DUPRE (Translation) —debates, bills, acts, proceedings, correspondence and administration reports and, secondly, the departments shall collaborate with the bureau to facilitate its efficient and speedy translation. The branches, agencies and commissions appointed by parliament or by order of the governor in council shall be likewise, that is, shall collaborate, just like the departments.

Mr. FERLAND (Translation): Will the hon. minister permit me to put a question?

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): Yes.

Mr. FERLAND (Translation): Am I to understand from the minister's remarks that certain official reports such as that of the superintendent of insurance, which are published only in the English language for a number of years past, shall, in the future, be translated in all departments, in the French language, whatever may be the nature of the official reports? In other words, will section 3 of bill No. 4 bind the government to have all official reports and documents, whatever may be their nature, translated by the Bureau for translations?

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): My reply will not be unintelligible. My answer is: Yes. That is bill No. 4 applies the provisions of section 133 to all departments and branches of the public service. The subsection 2 applies these provisions to all branches, commissions and governmental agencies; in other words this section 3 spreads the application of section 133 to all reports of the administration, and others, such as documents, debates, bills, proceedings, correspondence, whether they should emanate from the superintendent of insurance or otherwise.

Mr. GAGNON (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): May I be permitted, sir, to summarize from a legal angle, by submitting the following argument: Briefly, bill No. 4 completes section 133; it implements the spirit in which section 133 shall be construed or, if you wish, it is the recognition, in legal form, of what section 133 intimates but does not express. Section 3 of bill No. 4 confirms in a federal statute the interpretation that we, from Quebec, have given to the spirit of section 133 of the B. N. A. Act. In my opinion it is a step forward in the laying of our claims and is this not, sir, the most essential aspect of the question? I suggest to all who have protested against this bill to peruse those sections. First, section 133; secondly, sections 47 and 72 of the Rules and Regulations of the House, and finally, bill No. 4, and compare them, that

[Mr. Bouchard.]

is all I ask of them; all I ask the French Canadian press, is to publish this section 133, sections 47 and 72 of the Rules and Regulations of the House and bill No. 4.

My hon. friend, the member for Nicolet (Mr. Dubois), in his noteworthy speech delivered on March 2, 1934, put a question to the hon. Secretary of State. At page 1116 of Hansard, he said:

If the hon. Secretary of State would publicly state that it is a greater guarantee for the French language, I could be more lenient towards the measure under consideration.

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): Well! Before the hon. Secretary of State replies to this question, I answer: yes, it is an additional guarantee.

Mr. DUBOIS (Translation): My request was that the hon. Secretary of State should do so himself.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): The hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Chevrier), at page 993 of Hansard, stated that this bill could be abrogated as easily as it is enacted. True. That applies to all measures enacted by parliament. To my mind, it is a strange argument. Conclusion, let us not enact any measure, let us not even vote for a bill if it implies a step forward in favour of the rights of the French language because it might be abrogated next year or in a few years!

May I now, sir, broach the technical viewpoint of the question. What are the advantages to be derived from bill No. 4?

In my opinion, the advantages to be derived from this bill will be to secure the simultaneous publication of the French and English versions of all documents. That is what we have requested for many years and that is what we shall actually realize. For instance, this year, only 12 French reports compared to 29 English reports are at the disposal of the house, and in previous years the situation was worse. With the new organization which the bill suggests, these reports will be issued simultaneously in French and English. I have here a list, somewhat long, but which I shall curtail, of the various annual reports which are to be found in the report of the King's Printer. First, we find that the annual report of the Pensions and National Health department for the year 1928-29, was issued in English in February, 1930, and in French in July, 1931, namely, a delay of 17 months.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Are the translators to blame?