

Some of the pilots are reported to be afraid to press the matter lest they might be dismissed. Others of them are said to be glad that the fund disappeared when it did because they believe that it would only be stolen anyway and the bigger the amount the bigger the temptation.

It is rather a sad state of affairs if a body of industrious men cannot lay by a fund upon which they may draw in an emergency without having it appropriated by some office holder.

Now it is said that the official who got possession of this money, placed it to his own credit and drew the money on his own cheque and that it disappeared. It is said that the government is now about to force this official to mortgage his property; that they in the meantime will supply the lost money and secure themselves by taking a mortgage from this official for the amount. The 'Post' goes on to say:

The report comes now that in response to the public exposure that has been made, and in order to relieve a faithful follower, who was so unwise as to allow himself to be found out, the government is going to restore the missing fund and that they will take as collateral a mortgage on certain properties at North Sydney.

I am not responsible for the accuracy of this statement; I am merely reading it to you.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is no objection to this motion going, but I am informed by an official of the department that this information is given every year in a supplement to the report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I have tried to get a copy of the report, but we simply seem to be unable to get one when we want it. In order to test the correctness of the statement that has been made to me, and see if the information is printed annually I sent a page for a copy, but he could not get it. If information on such matters is printed annually in the departmental report, there is no ground for the accusation made by my hon. friend. We shall see that all the information comes down.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—And that it includes all the correspondence?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Whatever is available in the department.

The motion was agreed to.

DIVISION OF PARLAMENTARY BUSINESS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. DAVID inquired:

Does the government intend to adopt some measure to divide the legislative work between

Hon. Mr. McDONALD (C.B.)

the Senate and the House of Commons, in order to avoid rush of work and hasty consideration at the end of the session?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The question is asked every year or two, whether we could not equalize the business before parliament in order that the Senate may have their share of the work in the early part of the session, but it does not seem possible. So far as private bill legislation is concerned, it embraces a large proportion that depends upon the wishes of the promoters. The House of Commons consists of nearly three times as many members as this chamber. They are more in touch with the people naturally. The business of initiating private bill legislation goes as a rule, however, to the House of Commons members, although some of it may come to the senators. If they are themselves in touch with those who have private bills to submit to parliament, they will naturally come here. In reference to government bills it is a more difficult question. Naturally the minister at the head of the department, when it is proposed to make any change in the law over which that department has special jurisdiction, he prefers that he shall have the inauguration of his own measure, because he has to explain the changes that are asked for in the earlier stages of the bill. Government bills as a rule emanate from the departments of Justice, Marine and Fisheries, Railways and Canals and Public Works. I have repeatedly asked my colleagues to allow me to introduce bills in this Chamber, and on several occasions have succeeded in doing so. I shall be only too glad to increase the number at any time the opportunity presents itself.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—As regards government Bills I appreciate the answer made by the hon. Secretary of State. He has just stated that the government will do everything in their power to give us the introduction of public bills when possible. As to the private bills, I do not see why it should not be possible to divide the initiation of that legislation. I do not know exactly when or to what extent that division should take place. Perhaps it could take place at the outset when the petition is sent in by the promoter of the bill and the deposit is made with the public officer, and a decision then would be recognized by both Houses; or