

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: Well, it would be absolutely impossible to be the guardian of every individual in the country.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: No, but they are the majority.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: Under a new order which has been issued by the Finance Minister, persons who are depositors in the savings banks to-day can withdraw as low a sum as \$25 and invest it in Government debentures, and draw upon that sum at the end of three years a sum equal to interest at 5 per cent per annum.

Hon. Mr. POWER: May I be pardoned for saying another word? I felt there was a good deal of force in the view taken by the honourable gentlemen who have just spoken; but I was rather surprised, on looking at the Canada Gazette, to find that the amount deposited to-day in the savings departments of the various banks in this country is much larger than what was deposited there a year ago.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: That is absolutely true. We have a phenomenal condition, a condition unprecedented in Canada, because of the great stimulus which has resulted from the activity in manufacturing and the high prices that are obtained for agricultural products and everything else that we have to export. There is no doubt that the banks are to-day overburdened with deposits, and it is because of this plethora of deposits that the banks have been able to come to the aid of the British Government.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I may inform my honourable friend from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Power) that there are to-day banks which refuse to pay 3 per cent on large deposits unless they be time deposits. A plethora of money in the banks is not necessarily an indication of a healthy condition in the country.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I have no doubt that the remarks of the honourable senator from Rideau (Hon. Mr. Edwards) are entirely correct. I remember reading within the last few weeks the statements of two of our banks, according to which the deposits in those two banks—deposits bearing interest and deposits bearing no interest—amounted to nearly \$500,000,000. The amount of deposits in those two banks, bearing interest at the same rate as is paid by the Government savings banks, amounted to millions—I have forgotten the exact figure. Apparently there is any amount of

Hon. Mr. POWER.

money in Canada to-day. I think the statement of the honourable senator from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Power) in regard to savings bank interest is entirely answered by that. To the honourable gentleman from Rideau (Hon. Mr. Edwards) I might say that the Treasury certificates now available for small investors, bearing 5 per cent interest, and which are negotiable, offer a very good reply, and show how the small investor can get from the Government of the country 5 per cent for his money, which is the same rate they are paying on larger investments.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The honourable senator from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) says that some of the banks refused large sums at 2½ per cent. That is strange. If the conversion is so easy, you would think that those banks, in justice to their shareholders, would get the money at 2½ or 3 per cent, make the conversion, and get 5 per cent, and I am surprised that his own bank does not do so.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The Government is issuing war certificates in denominations as low as \$25, and any person purchasing these can realize a little over 5 per cent. All they have to do in order to realize 5 per cent is transfer their account from the post office savings bank.

Hon. Mr. POWER: The people will gradually catch on to that.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

STAFF OF THE SENATE.

STATUTORY INCREASES.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I understand that His Honour the Speaker has submitted to the House the recommendation of the Clerk of the Senate with reference to the provisions contained in section 3, chapter 15, of the statutes of 1908, that the Senate should allow the members of its staff to enjoy the benefit of the provisions of the said Act—that is, the section covering the statutory increases to which the officers and servants of the Senate would be entitled, with the consent of the Senate. With the leave of the House, I move seconded by Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the adoption of this recommendation.

Hon. Mr. POWER: In the ordinary course of events, I think this recommendation should go to the Committee on Internal Economy, but, inasmuch as the House is likely to adjourn to-morrow until the latter