

House of Commons Debates

FIRST SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, February 29, 1912.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

REPORT PRESENTED.

First Part of the Report of the Fifth Census of Canada.—Hon. Mr. Burrell.

BIOLOGICAL BOARD OF CANADA.

Hon. J. D. HAZEN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 118) to create 'The Biological Board of Canada.'

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. HAZEN. This Bill has reference to the work carried on in connection with the biological service. The members of the Biological Board serve without pay and they have been hampered in their work to a considerable extent owing to the system under which the work is now carried on. All supplies and everything of that kind in connection with the different stations have to be ordered by the Department of Marine and Fisheries in the first instance, and these gentlemen who are now serving feel that their work is considerably delayed, the season during which the work is carried on being very short. They have not been able to give as good results as they think they could if the system proposed in this Bill were adopted. I took the matter up with the Auditor General and this Bill is the result of a consultation with him. The Bill creates a board to be called 'The Biological Board of Canada' which shall be under the control of the minister. The board shall consist of two members appointed by the minister, one appointed by each of the universities of Dalhousie, Laval, McGill, New Brunswick, Queen's and Toronto, and one to be appointed by each of such other universities (to be named by the minister) as may engage in the work of biological research.

The board shall have charge of all biological stations in Canada, and shall have the conduct and control of investigations of practical and economic problems con-

nected with marine and fresh water fisheries, flora and fauna, and such other work as may be assigned to it by the minister. The board shall meet annually at the city of Ottawa and at such meetings shall elect one member to be chairman and another to be secretary treasurer, who shall hold office until the next annual meeting.

Other meetings of the board shall be held at such places and at such times as are necessary for the work of the board. The board may make by-laws for the conduct of its business, but no by-law shall be in force until it has been approved of by the minister. No member of the board shall receive any payment or emolument for his services, but he shall be repaid all actual, reasonable travelling or other expenses in connection with the work of the board. From the moneys appropriated by parliament for the work of the board which in the present year will amount to \$15,000 or which the board may receive through bequest, donation or the sale of specimens of natural history, the secretary treasurer under direction of the board shall expend such sums as are necessary for the work of the board. A detailed statement of the expenses of the board up to the close of the preceding fiscal year shall be prepared annually by the secretary treasurer, and such statement shall be submitted to and be examined by the Auditor General. A report upon the work done by the board shall be made to the minister as soon as possible after the close of each fiscal year.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

MR. F. P. GUTELIUS.

Mr. CARVELL:

1. Has Mr. Frederick Passmore Gutelius been recently appointed to the National Transcontinental Commission?
2. Is Mr. Gutelius a British subject?

Mr. COCHRANE:

1. No.
2. Mr. F. P. Gutelius is a British subject.