

charwomen who are employed from 6.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. The room was enlarged by pulling a partition down which turned it into a comfortable place for the constables who form our protective staff.

Whilst the men employed in the Sergeant-at-Arms service had to put up with unsanitary premises and, in some cases, chiefs were mixed with their men, several of our best offices in the front part of the ground floor were occupied by translators who did not belong to the House of Commons but were under the authority and pay of the Secretary of State. We could not keep them on our premises when we lacked office space for our own men. After long discussions and difficulties, we finally succeeded in arranging that they should take a building in lower town. This removal gave us sufficient space for the offices of the chief constable, the clerk of equipment, the chief messenger, the chief of the cleaning service and the typist attached to the miscellaneous services of the house. We were able to supply suitable premises for the British United Press which is now comfortably housed near the door opposite the post office. We also furnished good premises to the engineers assigned to the parliament building by the Department of Public Works.

The cafeteria could not accommodate the increased number of customers who were patronizing it. We had another partition pulled down, increasing space, and we took over the west end of the fifth floor corridor on the north side, thus making the cafeteria double in size and better ventilated. This is one of the best improvements made in the building during the last two years.

No special premises had ever been set aside for the committee reporters who had managed to secure desk room in small offices where they found it almost impossible to perform their official duties. They needed space not only for themselves but also for the typists who copied their reports and for the employees who prepared mimeographed copies sent to members of the house. Their work is very strenuous and important. We succeeded in allotting to them two offices with a large room between them, and for the first time they were enabled to perform their duties under workable conditions.

The Speakers' portraits were scattered in the large dining room of the 6th floor, in room 268 and in some officers' offices. The greatest number were in the north corridor of the main floor but they had been placed without any attention to the dates of the Speakers' terms of office. Moreover, the very expensive frames of these portraits badly needed to be cleaned and repaired. That work was done

[Mr. Speaker.]

and this gallery of portraits was placed in accordance to seniority from the legislative assembly of 1792 to the last parliament which sat until 1940.

Other improvements of minor importance were also made but mention of the above is sufficient to show that the House of Commons is now working in better condition than ever before.

In the report submitted to me it has been stated that my own office expenses are the lowest during the past 40 years. I have endeavoured to practice retrenchments without causing hardship or impairing the service of the house. The staff has been reduced by sixty-one persons both permanent and temporary. The premises occupied by the Sergeant-at-Arms branch have been improved and order and discipline have been established in all the branches of the House of Commons service. Our expenses are matters of routine mapped out beforehand and paid almost automatically. When vacancies occur they are filled by promotions or changes within the staff. The accountant is always in close co-operation with the comptroller of the treasury and since 1940 I am informed that no payments or expenditures have been the subject of letters from the auditor general.

On the whole I would say that the affairs of the house are conducted with care and economy and further retrenchments can be made. In these further reductions I will have to ask the cooperation of the members of the house, a cooperation which I must here say I have received in a measure far exceeding my expectations.

I can only report on the affairs of the House of Commons. It would not, I think, be proper for me to make any suggestion to the Senate which is autonomous and has a staff of its own, independent of ours and under the authority of its own Speaker. It has been suggested that there be only one reading room, one post office, one barber shop, et cetera, for both houses of parliament and all I can say, and I think the house would wish me to say it, is that I will gladly welcome consultation and agreement on desirable economies, with the Senate.

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT OF CANADA

339. Administration of soldier settlement and British family settlement, \$571,858.

Mr. QUELCH: I should like to say a few words regarding soldier settlement in connection with the last war. I believe most hon. members feel the committee made a pretty good job of dealing with the bill that looks after the soldiers of this war. I am sorry I cannot feel that we have dealt as satisfactorily