

large its powers. The Minister of Mines has a report of the work that this Imperial Bureau has done and will give it when his estimates come up.

Mr. BURRELL: As a matter of fact, there has been no expense to us. The Imperial Government is paying the expense for the first three years. Our only contribution will be the expenses of Dr. Miller, the Canadian representative, who is just leaving. He has been over here and has supplied me with more memoranda on the subject.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): Has the Bureau any executive functions, or is it merely an advisory body?

Mr. ROWELL: It is purely an advisory body, gathering and disseminating information.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): I see it stated in the report that it agreed that this should be a governing body and not merely an advisory body, and in order to give it executive functions it must be incorporated. By the resolution which was virtually passed the Bureau was organized as an incorporated body, so it must have been decided to give it some executive authority.

Mr. ROWELL: My hon. friend has the report by him.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes, it is on pages 8 and 9.

Mr. ROWELL: It will be observed in the remarks of the hon. Minister of Interior (Mr. Meighen), who was looking after this matter at the Conference, that he took the view that from our standpoint this Bureau was not as important as it was considered to be by other parts of the Empire, and in deference to Canada's view the report of the committee was amended in very important respects. The report will be found on pages 237 and 238, on which latter page my hon. friend will find the changes that were made. The original paragraph was as follows:

As to the expenditure, it is suggested that a distinction should be drawn between current administrative expenditure and the cost of special inquiries instituted by the Bureau on its own account, at the wish of any of the Governments.

In lieu of this the following was inserted:

As to expenditure, each Government would, of course pay the expenses of its own representative. The normal expenditure of the Bureau would be met out of funds contributed by the Imperial Government, as suggested in the report of Sir James Stevenson's Committee, together with such contributions from the Overseas Governments as they may, by agreement, be prepared to make.

[Mr. Rowel.]

This arrangement shall continue for three years, before the end of which time the question as to the contribution to be made by the Overseas Governments shall be brought up for discussion at an Imperial Conference.

These clauses were inserted to meet the objection of Canada to the report as originally presented, so that it will be seen that apart from the expenses of our own representatives our expenditure is only such as we may choose to contribute, and is limited to three years.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska): What was the purpose of granting that Bureau incorporation by Royal Charter, as was actually done?

Mr. ROWELL: I cannot answer my hon. friend's question, as I was not following that particular part of the discussion. Unless the question is answered in the report which he has I am afraid I cannot answer it. Another question that called for very earnest consideration—

Mr. BUREAU: Do I understand that the only expenditure to which we are bound is the expense of our representative in London, in addition to what the Government may choose to contribute voluntarily?

Mr. ROWELL: That is it. The question of petroleum supply was considered, and in resolution number 18—

Mr. LEMIEUX: At this point may I be permitted to make a remark in regard to a question I put the other day to the Minister of Interior about the Shale Oil Company. I thought it was shell, but somebody said "Shale." I asked him if that company had obtained a charter from the Government giving them the right to acquire oil-bearing lands of Western Canada. My hon. friend answered that a request had been made by that company and had been taken into consideration but had not been granted. I have not his exact words before me, but the answer was not very definite; I do not know if they convey the impression that the company was barred from operation in Western Canada, or if for the time being the matter was not decided. I noticed in the press of Saturday or yesterday a despatch from Calgary in which it was stated that that company—called the Shale Company or the Royal Dutch Company—is actually operating in the West and boring at various places, and it is hinted that it is composed chiefly of gentlemen from Great Britain. I have heard of several names in connection with the company, and particularly one prominent Canadian name, that of Sir Clifford Sifton. Does the hon. member know whether that company has