

The situation is such that the department of the Secretary of State either must have a number of translators attached to it or must be able to avail itself of the services of some one or more of these ninety-one translators. For instance, the Department of the Secretary of State has to procure a translation of the address of His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of parliament, but there is no translator to whom I can apply to have that work done, so I have been dependent upon the gratuitous service of personal friends, or to pay others to make that translation from time to time. In addition we have a very considerable number of important state documents of which the Secretary of State, as Registrar General, is the conservator or keeper or guardian. Yet some time ago, when a treaty dealing with the waterways was signed between the government of Canada and the government of the United States, there was not a single translator to whom I could apply or to whom I had the right to apply to make a translation of that document from English into French for circulation as required. In respect of private, confidential documents such as that, I had to enlist the services of a personal friend to make the translation. There were other documents such as the convention between Ontario and Quebec in regard to the same waterways, and in connection with them there was no one in the public service to whom I could apply for a translation. I had to go outside to procure the services of a friend to make such translation. And so it is that the different departments are from time to time called upon to prepare in both English and French very important state documents.

On review of the matter it was recommended, first by the civil service commission that, to avoid the appointment of a number of translators in addition to the number I have mentioned, and in view of the fact that a consolidation had been made under the Minister of Finance of the accounting systems of the different departments, a bureau might be created to which the existing translators would be attached, subject to the civil service commission in every respect, which could be called upon authoritatively to translate state documents as from time to time throughout the year they may be required.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Would that bureau be under the minister?

Mr. CAHAN: It was suggested that it should be under such minister as might from [Mr. Cahan.]

time to time be appointed by the governor in council to administer the act, and that a superintendent of the bureau should be appointed by the Civil Service Commission, from among the existing translators, who would superintend the actual work and such distribution of work as might be deemed necessary. For the present the word "minister" where it appears in the bill means the Secretary of State for Canada, or such other minister of the crown as may from time to time be appointed by order in council to administer this legislation. However I prefer to discuss the matter when the bill is actually before the house upon second reading, at which time all members will have access to it.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

ST. MAURICE DE L'ÉCHOURIE, QUE., WHARFINGER

Mr. BRASSET:

1. Who is the watchman of the wharf of St. Maurice de l'Échourie?
2. What was the amount of revenue from the fees charged in 1931 at the said wharf?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Ovide Cloutier is wharfinger—no knowledge of any watchman.
2. \$20.15.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE RESPECTING CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if the house was not to understand from his motion of a few days ago that the speech from the throne would be considered to-day, and that this order would receive precedence over all others? It has been customary on former occasions to proceed in that manner.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it was my intention that consideration of the Governor General's speech should appear on the order paper following questions. However I understand from the clerk of the house that having regard to the terms of the motion the order paper should be as it is. I propose, with the consent of the house, that the order for notices of motions might stand, without losing their position on the order paper, that gov-