

2. The minister shall for the convenience of administration, and in order to expedite the transaction of the business with which he is charged, ordinarily reside and discharge his duties in London, and in urgent matters of importance which would generally be subject to consideration and direction, upon the minister's report, by the Governor in Council. The minister may, if the time or means for communication do not admit of antecedent authority from the Governor in Council, sanction provisionally such measures as may seem to him advisable, subject, however, to report and the confirmation of the minister's action by the Governor in Council.

3. The minister shall moreover be charged with the negotiations on the part of the Government of Canada, as occasion may require, with His Majesty's Government, in all matters connected with the Government, command and disposition of the overseas forces of Canada, and such arrangements as may be advisable for co-ordinating their operations and services with those of His Majesty's troops, and generally for the purpose of utilizing the overseas forces of Canada in the most effective manner for the purpose of the war.

4. The minister shall moreover execute such further powers and perform such other duties as may be from time to time conferred upon or assigned to him by the Governor in Council.

5. The minister may for the purposes aforesaid establish such organization as may be found necessary and adequate, and he may, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, appoint such officers and clerks to assist in the work of ministry as he deems necessary, with such grades in the Civil Service of Canada as may be prescribed, and such officers and clerks shall not be subject to examination under the Civil Service Act.

6. There may be an advisory council, consisting of such members as the Governor in Council may appoint, to advise the minister as to matters relating to the affairs and property hereby committed to his administration.

7. All recommendations of the minister for submission to the Governor in Council shall be transmitted through the President of the Privy Council.

8. Until Parliament otherwise provides the minister shall hold his office, commission or employment without any salary, fees, wages, allowances, emolument or other profit of any kind attached thereto.

It will be observed, that the Minister of the Overseas Forces has no power of organization or appointment except with the approval of the Governor in Council, unless it be provisional, and then it must be finally approved and confirmed by Order in Council. Therefore, when it is suggested, as it was by the hon. member (Sir Sam Hughes) that the increase in the staff of the Overseas Ministry is anything like what he states, I can only say that he is absolutely misinformed, and I intend to establish that fact upon the official report of the Minister of Overseas Service. It would be impossible for that minister to so increase

the staff without the approval of the Governor in Council, and the approval of the Governor in Council has not been given to any such condition as the hon. member (Sir Sam Hughes) represented.

The order in council which established the Ministry of the Overseas Forces was passed on the 28th day of October, 1916. The office of Parliamentary Under Secretary of the Militia Department had been previously established, on the 15th day of July, 1916. The order in council establishing that office recited the increased duties of the Minister of Militia and Defence owing to the war, that his duties frequently occasioned his absence from the seat of Government, and that during his absence it was necessary to appoint some other minister to discharge his duties. The conclusion was reached that it would be desirable to establish the office of Parliamentary Secretary who could assist the Minister of Militia and Defence and, within certain limits act for him during his absence. The Ordinance which established the office of Parliamentary Secretary is as follows:

1. During the continuance of the present war the Governor in Council may from time to time appoint a Senator or a Member of the House of Commons to be Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Militia and Defence;

2. The Parliamentary Secretary shall, with respect to the Department of Militia and Defence, perform such Parliamentary duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Governor in Council.

3. The Parliamentary Secretary shall ex officio be a member of the Militia Council and in the absence of the minister he shall act as chairman thereof.

4. In the absence of the minister from Ottawa, the Parliamentary Secretary shall preside over and administer the Department of Militia and Defence, but he shall not make any change in the policy of the department without the authority of the Governor in Council.

5. In the absence of the Minister of Militia and Defence, and subject to the approval of the Prime Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary shall have authority to report to and make recommendations to the Governor in Council through the Prime Minister;

6. The Parliamentary Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Governor in Council;

7. Until Parliament otherwise provide, the Parliamentary Secretary shall hold his office, commission or employment without any salary, fees, wages, allowances, emolument or other profit of any kind attached thereto.

The ordinance establishing the office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs was approved on the 16th day of July, 1916, and it recited the increased demands upon the time and energies of the Prime Minister through the conditions created by the war.