

mentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: But why should not that come under the Representation Act? Why bring it in here? You might just as well bring in all sorts of offices. My honourable friend may smile. He does not approve of this any more than I do, but he has no explanation to give, and cannot give any such explanation as I ask for. I see his difficulty; I recognize it.

Paragraph 3A of section 2 was agreed to.

On section 3—salaries:

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: A salary of \$7,000 per annum is a very small one for a minister of the Crown, responsible to the Crown and responsible to the public. The officer in St. John to whom I have referred can walk about the streets of that city, and is drawing nearly \$7,000, and has no such responsibilities. Why should not a minister of the Crown have a larger salary than that? I object to that clause.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This is the sum which is paid to all other ministers of the Crown.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: I know that, but I say that \$7,000 is not a respectable sum to be paid to a man representing Canada overseas. There is where the trouble comes in; a man in that position has to meet a great deal of expense, and unless he is a millionaire and can pay the expense out of his own pocket he has great temptations. I believe that the Minister Overseas should have \$25,000—or at least \$10,000 or \$12,000. The officer at St. John is drawing \$7,000 or \$8,000, is doing nothing, and is responsible to nobody. Just compare the two cases. My honourable friend sees that I am right. Have we not the power to make that \$10,000?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This House has no authority to do so.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The St. John man could not be reached by this Act.

Section 3 was agreed to.

On section 5—salaries to be paid from first appointment:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I think there is a clerical error in that section; it refers to the "salaries prescribed by section one of this Act." I think that ought to be "salaries prescribed by section three."

Hon. Mr. POWER: There is no salary prescribed by section one.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I want to express my surprise that the Government should propose such a clause, exempting two ministers from going to the people for re-election, when there is so little need for such legislation, which violates the general principle. Here we are on the threshold of a general election. It seems to me that this measure could well have been laid aside, and the ministers could have awaited the general election to seek the endorsement of the people.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Inasmuch as they are appointed for the duration of the war, and the offices expire at the end of the session of Parliament next after the termination of the war, and, furthermore, inasmuch as a similar thing has been done in England, surely there is justification for doing this in Canada.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Of course I know the present conditions are abnormal, but there would seem to be hardly any necessity for violating the general principle when a general election is in sight.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE: I suppose these gentlemen are not going to the country to be elected. Of course, Sir George Perley will have to be elected.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Oh, yes. We are simply legislating as to the office.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE: It seems to me that the Bill might perhaps go further.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Sir George Perley is going to continue to be the Overseas Minister until six months after the war. It does not matter what may happen in the meantime. The present Government may go out of power.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: My honourable friend will find that in section 1 provision is made for the appointment of a Minister of the Overseas Military Forces. Then, it is provided that this office shall continue, not that the incumbents shall continue in office. There may be half-a-dozen different persons who will occupy that office.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Unless he dies, he would continue in office.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE: The Bill says that he shall hold office during pleasure. Supposing he does not resign, has the next Government got to put him out? They will have to do something.