

Two of the commissioners have each been paid \$150 a month, and the chairman \$200 a month, plus \$75 for expenses. Section 2 of the bill authorizes the Governor in Council to determine the amount of salaries to be paid to the chairman and the other commissioners.

At present two of the three commissioners are appointed by the Governor in Council; the third is appointed jointly by the three municipalities, Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond. It is proposed that the number of commissioners be increased to five—four of whom will be appointed by the Governor in Council—so that there may be a wider representation of interests on the commission than at the present time.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Haig: It need not be referred to a committee.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: I gave an undertaking to the Law Clerk that these bills would all go to committee, so that he could examine them. I therefore move that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to.

NATIONAL GALLERY BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Norman P. Lambert moved second reading of Bill 42, an Act respecting the National Gallery of Canada.

He said: Honourable senators, I am very pleased to say that this bill represents one feature of the Massey Report which, as far as I am concerned, is entirely acceptable. I was also glad to note that the measure passed through the other house almost unanimously.

The bill before us seeks to do four things, namely:

(1) to increase the number of members of the Board of Trustees from five to nine members;

(2) to provide that the board may enter into contracts and may dispose of property vested in the board;

(3) to provide for a National Gallery purchase account and a special operating account, to meet the expenditures of the board; and

(4) to make provision for the appointment of necessary officers and employees, in accordance with the terms of the Civil Service Act.

I may say that the setting up of a special operating account for the gallery is in keeping

with the procedure followed in relation with the Federal District Commission, whereby appropriations are made by parliament every year to provide for the acquisition of properties by the commission in connection with the planning of the city and surrounding district. The provision in this bill relating to the National Gallery is similar in character.

One could say a good deal about the National Art Gallery, but time forbids. I should like, however, to refer to the history of the development of painting in this country during the past hundred years, commencing with the advent of the great Kriehoff pictures and coming up to the present time. There was gradual growth up until about 1913, but since that time there has been a very pronounced development of a Canadian type of art, which has served to identify us as a people not only to ourselves but to countries throughout the world. Painting is the one artistic medium through which the people of this country have been more adequately interpreted to the people of other lands than any other. The National Gallery, which is the centre of this effort on the part of Canada, should therefore receive our earnest attention and sympathy.

I need only refer to the fact that during the recent war about 10,000 reproductions of Canadian pictures were sent in the form of silk screen prints to all parts of the world where Canadian troops were stationed. These prints represented, I think, the best of our Canadian painters, and the wide distribution did more than any other one thing in the past fifty years to stimulate interest in and an appetite for Canadian painting. One had ample opportunity to judge that result in the years following the war. I have observed here in Ottawa that young men and young women, when they returned from overseas, would spend a few days here on the way home to other parts of Canada, and would visit the Art Gallery to see for the first time the originals of many of the prints that decorated their mess halls and common rooms in various parts of the world.

I should like to refer particularly to something that was said a couple of years ago by one of the founders of the School of Seven, which has been an outstanding influence not only in popularizing Canadian paintings among ourselves, but in establishing a title for Canadians abroad. Mr. Lawren Harris, one of the outstanding leaders and founders of that movement when it was organized in 1910, in an address to the Canadian Historical Society, said this:

It is largely through the basic interplay between our vast land and the response it inspires in our hearts and minds that we shape our character and outlook as a people. Through the arts as an expressive and creative instrument we are able to bring our great environment into effective focus.