

Hon. ROBT. WATSON: I am sure that my colleague on that committee, the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Sir James Lougheed), will be pleased to have this expression of opinion from the Senate. This matter has been discussed by the committee and up to date the feeling of the majority of the committee has been that the Speaker's quarters should not be in the building. That question was discussed more from the point of view of economy than any other, the committee feeling that at every change of Speakership the Speaker's quarters have to be practically renewed.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Especially in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: And the cost of renewal has been discussed more or less.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: When I was made Speaker of the Senate I think no change was made in the Speaker's quarters.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: As a rule, the Speakers ask for a change of furniture, decorations, etc. The Public Works Department, which pays the expenses, has so reported. However, that difficulty might be overcome, because there is, I believe, a feeling growing in Canada that the Speaker should be permanent. In England they have a permanent Speaker, not by law but by practice. The United States have practically the same thing.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: No; the Speaker of the United States is elected by vote.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: But they have the same Speaker.

Some Hon. SENATORS: No, no.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS. With a change of administration in the United States, the Speaker always changes.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: It depends on the vote.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Very well. I concur with what has been said by the honourable gentleman from Stadacona (Hon. Mr. Landry) that there is ample space in the new building for Speakers' quarters, and it is only a question of deciding whether the Speaker shall have them or not.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Would the honourable gentleman like to be Speaker?

Hon. Mr. WATSON: No, I would not. This expression of opinion will, I have no doubt, be taken into serious consideration by the honourable leader of the House and myself as members of the Committee. The

Senate appears to be in favour of the quarters being in the building.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, in this connection I may say as member of that Committee that I am very glad to have the opinion of the House expressed upon this subject. The architect has intimated to-day that he is very desirous that members of the Senate should look over the plans of the Senate section of the building. The plans will be here this afternoon placed upon the table of the news room. He will be very glad indeed if honourable gentlemen will look over the division which he has made. Of course, that division of accommodation, for Committee rooms, offices, and rooms for members, is only suggested.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON: Do the plans make provision for apartments to be provided for the Speaker?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I really do not know; I have not seen them.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: The space is there.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: As the honourable gentleman from Portage la Prairie (Hon. Mr. Watson) has stated, there is ample space for the accommodation of the Speaker. However, if honourable gentlemen will avail themselves of the opportunity of looking over the plans this afternoon when they are placed upon the table in the news room, and will make any suggestions either to myself or to the honourable gentleman from Portage la Prairie we shall be only too glad to convey those suggestions to the committee.

MILITARY VOTERS' BILL.

THIRD READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the third reading of Bill 127, the Military Voters' Act, 1917.

Hon. HEWITT BOSTOCK: Before that motion is put, I want simply to emphasize the fact that in any criticism which was made on this side of the House with respect to this legislation, honourable gentlemen on this side were only anxious to see that every precaution was taken in this Bill and every method adopted whereby the soldiers' vote could be fairly and straightforwardly recorded, that every opportunity should be given to the men who are so nobly defending this country and doing their duty to the Empire, to record their vote as they may see fit. Any amendments that we moved