

of Mr. Murdoch as a director of the Canadian National Railways. I replied briefly then. I am tabling all the correspondence exchanged between Mr. Murdoch and myself, and in doing so I might say that the difference between Mr. Murdoch and his fellow-directors had reference to the reappointment of Mr. Hungerford as president of the railway for a further term. Yesterday at a meeting of the remaining directors Mr. Hungerford was unanimously recommended for further appointment.

CIVIL SERVICE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO TERMS AND OPERATION OF SUPERANNUATION ACT

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved:

That a select special committee of the house consisting of Messrs. Anderson, Baker, Blanchette, Bradette, Davidson, Dunning, Francœur, Hansell, Heaps, Hill, Lockhart, McCann, McLean (Melfort), Mallette, Mutch, Pottier, Wood, be appointed to inquire into the terms and operation of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, and all matters pertaining thereto, with power to call for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses under oath, to consider evidence taken at the last session of parliament before a select special committee of the house on the same subject matter, and to report from time to time, and that standing order 65 be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO OPERATION OF CIVIL SERVICE ACT

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State) moved:

That a select special committee of the House be appointed to inquire into the operation of the Civil Service Act, and all matters pertaining thereto, with power to call for persons, papers and records, to examine witnesses under oath, and to report from time to time;

And that standing order 65 be suspended in relation thereto, and that the select special committee shall consist of twenty-five members and the following be appointed members of the said committee: Messrs. Barber, Boulanger, Clark (York-Sunbury), Cleaver, Deachman, Fournier (Hull), Glen, Golding, Hartigan, Hyndman, Jean, Lacroix (Quebec-Montmorncy), Lennard, MacInnis, MacNeil, McNiven (Regina City), Marshall, Mulock, O'Neill, Poole, Pouliot, Spence, Tomlinson, Tucker, Wermeling.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, the civil service committee last year carried on its arduous work without the slightest trace of political partisanship. I see the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe) laughing. He said once that that committee was like a circus. He

[Mr. Howe.]

could have been the circus and every other member of the committee could have been the manager.

The chairman of the civil service commission, speaking of the committee of last year, said:

This committee has gathered more information than ever before.

There are three branches of the civil service commission: The organization branch, the examination branch and the assignment branch.

With regard, first, to the organization branch, Mr. Putnam, the chief organizer, said once that it was composed of self-taught men.

I will now give the duties of each one of these branches, according to a chart which was tabled before the committee, and which was included in report No. 15:

Organization Branch

Functions: To investigate and report on the organization, personnel establishment and procedure of departments and the classification of all positions in the service, rates of compensation and allowances, and maintain the classification and official classification files. To investigate all proposals for more staff and to check as to need, requisitions for the filling of vacant positions.

Examination Branch

Functions: To examine applicants for entrance to and promotion in the public service; to select and list eligibles in order of merit; to maintain examination records.

Assignment Branch

Functions: To make assignments from eligible lists; to maintain eligible lists in order and up to date; to notify appointees and departments of temporary and permanent assignments and to issue certificates of appointment; to issue extension of temporary certificates as authorized.

That is the designated work of the three chief branches of the civil service commission. There is another branch, administrative and personnel services, with which I shall not deal at the present time.

A distinction should be made between the oral and the documentary evidence which appeared in the committee's report.

Mr. HEAPS: May I ask what has all this to do with the appointment of the committee?

Mr. POULIOT: Wait and see.

Mr. HEAPS: I will wait.

Mr. POULIOT: As I said, Mr. Speaker, a distinction should be made between the oral and the documentary evidence of the committee last year. The documentary evidence comprises the final report of the committee