

to conflict with the desire of any of the other judges, because they are all resident district judges and have to travel to the full court in any case.

Mr. DAVIN. Of course I attach the greatest possible weight to what my friend Mr. Hautain urges on the Minister. He is the head of the local government, and of course is in touch with the people, and I have the greatest possible respect for what he says. Nevertheless if I were in the assembly with him, I would differ with him on this point. I do not think it is in the interest of any parties that the change should be made. However, I am not going, when the head of the local executive urges this on the Minister, to fight it here in committee. But I express my opinion and that remains unchanged. The one point that I made is a very serious one. If the court is sitting in banc at one place, the Government could have a first-rate library there; whereas the Government cannot afford to have a good library at Calgary, another at Moosomin, another at Moose Jaw, and another at Edmonton.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. As a matter of fact I think they are as well equipped at Calgary as they are at Regina, perhaps better.

Mr. DAVIN. I doubt that. But I know the Executive take an interest in having this clause, and if they do, I shall certainly not fight it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Can the hon. Minister say what additional amount will be required for travelling expenses? The present grant for travelling expenses is \$3,000.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. It will be so trifling that I can hardly make an estimate. The district judges now have to travel to the place where the court sits in banc. It will simply mean that when the court sits in Calgary the judges will have to travel there instead of to Regina, and so on.

On section 4,

Mr. DAVIN. Will the Minister please explain the object of this section?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. It is to remove the disqualification which now prevents an employee of the Dominion Government from sitting in the legislative assembly of the Territories. This has also been introduced at the request of the Territorial Government. They say, and I can perfectly understand it from my experience in the west, that the difficulty of legislation there arises from the difficulty of getting first-class men to contest the different ridings for the assembly and spend the necessary time to attend to legislation. As the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), of course, knows, there can be no party question in

Mr. SIFTON.

this as affecting the Territories, because they have no party government there. Men have been shut out of the assembly because they were holders of some petty office under the Dominion Government, for instance, a postmastership which yields, perhaps, \$25 or \$30 a year. I can see no reason in the world why a man who happens to hold an office under the Dominion Government should not represent the district in the assembly, if the assembly wants him to. Of course, if the assembly disqualifies a man on the ground that he holds an office under the Dominion Government, we have no objection to that, but I doubt if we ought to disqualify him. Under this section, the assembly will have it in their own hands. If they desire to disqualify a holder of an office under the Dominion Government from sitting in the assembly, they can do so; but he would not be disqualified by Dominion legislation.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That raises the very important question how far this Government ought to go.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I mentioned before that there might be a difference of opinion.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The question is how far the Government should go in permitting its own officers to enter legislatures of the different provinces. If you permit it in the Territories, it will be somewhat difficult to refuse similar privileges in the other provinces. And yet it seems to me a business that would tend to affect the proper discharge of the duties of these officers. We have legislation now on our Statute-book which renders it impossible, under certain circumstances, for officers of the Dominion Government having a certain salary to do any other work, the object being to keep their whole time for the service of the Government. I do not know whether the Minister of the Interior is able to say at the present time what the policy of the Government would be with regard to giving permission to their employees to enter the political field in any of the territories or provinces. Of course, that policy could be adopted irrespective of this clause.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There can be no doubt that salaried officers performing important duties could not be permitted, in justice to the Government, to devote their time to politics. The cases it is desired to cover are the cases of persons who hold offices for which they get very small remuneration, which could not, under any circumstances, give a man a living. And, of course, so far as the Government is concerned it would not permit an officer who held a salaried office which was supposed to afford him a livelihood to enter upon the discharge of legislative duties. Having that view, I do not think any seri-