

The WITNESS: No; and if the matter is being proposed I think it is desirable—

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: I am hoping we may be able to clear this up as we go along.

The WITNESS: —that you see Colonel Gibson. He would have been here this morning but he was called to a committee of the cabinet. He may be in later in the morning, sir.

Mr. GOLDING: It might be wise to let this stand for the time being. On the other hand, I think, after all, the Secretary of State or any minister must take the responsibility for what he does, and I would not imagine that he would do anything very foolish in the discharge of his duties as minister. I do not think anything has happened that would cause any trouble in leaving the matter as it is, would you?

Mr. FLEMING: I think the reason for that is this, that the need for such broad power or delegation does not exist in the light of the experience in the custodian's office during war. If, in the stress of war it was not necessary to delegate any powers beyond the Under Secretary of State to the assistant Under Secretary of State then that is as far as the power of delegation need extend now, surely; that is my point.

The WITNESS: I do not wish to interrupt you, but I find that this clause is taken word for word from the Treaty of Peace order of 1920.

Mr. FLEMING: We had some correspondence quite recently in the House of Commons and objection was taken to these wide powers or delegation; maybe we had better leave this matter open, Mr. Chairman, until the minister comes.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Section 6(2) stands. Now 6(3), "Establishment of Custodian's office".

Carried.

Mr. FRASER: There are wide powers given there also. I feel that they would not open more offices than they should. Would they have to open any more offices now?

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: I doubt very much if it is necessary to open further offices, but I would think it would be a necessary clause to have there in the event that action along those lines became necessary.

*By Mr. Fraser:*

Q. Can we have Mr. Coleman's views on that? Is there any chance of any more offices being opened?—A. No, there would be no more established.

Q. Is there any chance of any offices being closed?—A. Yes.

Q. What offices are going to be closed?—A. We hope in a reasonable time to be able to close the Vancouver office. As you will see from our report tabled in parliament the number of employees has been very substantially reduced. Only the Japanese, really, I think, would be taken at a later stage; but the expectation is that that office will wind up as promptly as possible.

*By Mr. Boucher:*

Q. There is the other point where they may hire such officers and advisors and pay such remuneration as the custodian determines. Now, I think the feeling is that this bill, once it is passed, will continue on for probably many years, and bearing in mind your statement recently whereby we are still working on previous wars, do you not think that the officials—officers and clerks—appointed under this section should be under the Civil Service Commission so that there will be some limitation?—A. That, of course, is a matter of policy; I do not wish to make observations on that matter. I can simply state that the