

Mr. BORDEN. The moment it is laid on the table of the House, the rule can be dispensed with, and printing can be ordered forthwith. I think it would hardly be advisable to lay down any hard and fast rule in the first instance.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I think the amendments substantially follow the lines of the suggestions made on this side of the House.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds). I may say that the intention of the government always has been, that this information should be laid before the House. My hon. friend from Guysborough suggested an amendment providing in specific terms, that the information and evidence should be laid before the House, within ten days after the opening of the session. The objection we had to that amendment was, that it did not go far enough or as far as we intended to go. Consequently, I am inserting a specific provision to the effect that the report and the findings, with the evidence on which they are based, shall be laid before parliament within 15 days after the opening of the session, or, if received during the session, within 15 days after they have been received.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The amendments, I think, are quite an improvement to the Bill. They do not go as far as we would like to see them go, our contention being that all information, and all the evidence on which the government might act, should be deemed to be of a public character and should be laid before parliament. Of course, if my hon. friend proposes to treat certain evidence as confidential, I do not suppose he could go much further in the matter than he has gone.

Mr. BORDEN. The idea is to leave that subject to the discretion of the commission.

Bill reported with amendments and amendments concurred in.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT— AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Bill (No. 113) to amend the Civil Service Act—Mr. White (Leeds)—read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds). When introducing this Bill, I explained to the House that it was made necessary by reason of the provisions of the amended Civil Service Act under which temporary clerks could only be employed for a period of six months during any fiscal year. A great deal of work devolves upon the Auditor General in the auditing and paying of accounts in connection with the Dominion elections. He has engaged a staff of about twenty temporary clerks, but, having trained them, will find it necessary under the present

law to dispense with their services. The Auditor General informs me that he spoke to the leader of the former government concerning the expediency of bringing in a Bill of this kind, and that the right hon. gentleman consented thereto. I have spoken to the right hon. gentleman on the subject. I think it is obvious that this is an amendment which should be made to the Civil Service Act. The Auditor General informs me that of the twenty extra clerks employed, two had reached the limit of their engagement, and were discharged. He will require fifteen for the next six months, and a comparatively small number after that until the work is completed. I believe the Bill is entirely non-contentious.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY—PUBLIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds) moved that the House go again into Committee of Supply.

Mr. JOSEPH E. ARMSTRONG (East Lambton). Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair, I wish to deal with a matter which I brought up for the consideration of the House a few weeks ago. On that occasion I offered a resolution of which I had given notice, in favour of the appointment of a commission to gather information for the use of parliament with regard to telegraphs and telephones. I had reached the consideration of the subject of parcels post. I have only one suggestion on this subject to give the Postmaster General, and it is that, in my opinion, it would not be wise in the extension of the parcel post system to go beyond establishing it on rural mail and stage routes, and I believe also that the parcels carried should have their origin at the beginning or on the rural mail or stage routes.

I desire to make a suggestion also with regard to rural free mail delivery. I understand the Postmaster General is about to extend this system to the thickly settled districts. I would urge upon him to take into consideration this fact: That while the late government had under consideration the giving of rural free mail delivery to the people in the thickly settled portion of the country, yet just previous to the last election, they were able, for some reason or other to give to the Liberal candidates in the different ridings perfect freedom in establishing free rural mail routes in any part of their ridings. Many of these routes were established some of them in districts that had formerly been accustomed to tri-weekly mail delivered at the post office and under the change the people of these districts found themselves with a daily mail delivered at their doors.