

tion? The hon. gentlemen in office say they do not want any salary. My suggestion would be to pay them. Parliament has the right to vote a sum of money for services rendered. Let the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance bring in a supplementary estimate for the services rendered by Sir George Perley and the Hon. Mr. McCurdy and we will vote the money gladly. It is to be regretted that the Government did not see fit to replace the High Commissionership in England immediately after the death of the last incumbent. The Government would have been in a much better position before the people if they had done so. According to my judgment, Sir George Perley would have been as good a High Commissioner as he has been a representative of the people, or, other members of the Cabinet could have been appointed to the office. So far as concerns the position of Minister of Militia Overseas, I am in thorough accord with what has been said by the right hon. leader of the Opposition. I believe only one member can be appointed at the head of a department, and the minister should be in Canada, responsible to Parliament. The gentleman representing him overseas can only be there in the capacity of a deputy minister. A second deputy minister, who would be responsible to the head of the department, could have been appointed to look after the business of the department overseas. Under the circumstances and more particularly in view of clause 6, by which these gentlemen would remain in their positions notwithstanding the general election, I would strongly advise the Prime Minister that he should withdraw this Bill, and vote a sum in the supplementary estimates to recompense these hon. gentlemen for the services they have rendered.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I would like to say to my hon. friend (Mr. Turgeon) that the construction he has placed upon the Act is entirely wrong. The gentlemen mentioned will, on the dissolution of Parliament, cease to be members of Parliament like the rest of us, and unless they are re-elected they naturally could not continue in their positions. It may be worth while to remind the House of the reasons why these offices were established. The Order in Council creating the ministry of the overseas service recited the unprecedented efforts that had to be made in this war; its unexpected length; the necessity for close co-operation with the British Government, and particularly the very great im-

[Mr. Turgeon.]

portance, and indeed, necessity of attaining the highest degree of efficiency with the most thorough and complete economy. Thorough co-operation with the British Government, a maximum of effort, and a maximum of economy, are the reasons set forth in the Order in Council as the considerations which led to the passing of the Order in Council establishing the overseas ministry.

Further, it was pointed out if I remember correctly, at all events the fact was that under conditions as they existed before the overseas ministry was created, it had become necessary from time to time for the Minister of Militia and Defence to spend a considerable portion of his time in Great Britain. As a matter of fact, during the year 1916, I think the then Minister of Militia and Defence spent as much of his time in Great Britain as he did in this country. During the period in which he was attending to the affairs of his department in Great Britain, it was necessary to appoint some other minister to carry on the administration of the department in this country. The practice before the overseas minister was appointed was indeed not very different from that which has prevailed since; not very different at least in this respect that it was necessary for months at a time for the minister of the Crown charged with the responsibility for militia affairs to devote himself to duties on the other side of the Atlantic.

With respect to some of the matters to which I have alluded, the Order in Council proceeded to enact the following ordinances for the constitution of the ministry of the overseas military forces of Canada:

Ordinance for the Constitution of the Ministry of Overseas Military Forces of Canada.

1. There shall be, so long as the present European war continues and thereafter until otherwise directed by the Governor in Council, a Minister of Overseas Military Forces of Canada, who shall be charged with the control of and shall be responsible for the administration of the affairs of the military forces of Canada in the United Kingdom and on the Continent of Europe; the ordnance, arms, ammunition, armouries, stores, munitions and habiliments of war belonging to Canada in the United Kingdom and on the Continent of Europe appropriated for the use of the overseas military forces of Canada, and all expenditure incurred in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in Europe for or in respect of the overseas military forces of Canada; the aforesaid powers and duties of the administration to include without limiting their generality, all powers and duties in connection with the troops, property and expenditure aforesaid heretofore exercised by or charged upon the Minister of Militia and Defence.