

says a word. This afternoon the hon. member for Labelle mentioned the word "sottise." In English it means "silliness, foolishness, folly; silly thing, foolish trick, nonsense, indecency, insult; abusive language," and in French it means "défaut d'esprit et de jugement, action sottie." This simple illustration will make us realize that even if we have only one man at the head of all the translators, we would find some anomalies; we would not have perfect service.

The Secretary of State this afternoon made out a great case by exhibiting in the house a number of documents that were printed at the printing bureau and that were returned with a large number of corrections to be made. If those were all the corrections that would have to be made in a year, surely he could not say that that was too much, because even in the best organized printing bureau in Canada or any other country, there would always be corrections to be made and surely we could never expect that under a new head the work would be so perfect that there would be no need for correction in work sent back from the printing bureau.

Personally I do not contend that some improvement could not be made in all departments, including translating. While the translation service is loyal and has given good work, no doubt it could be improved in some respects, but surely no one can tolerate the reflection cast this afternoon on the translating staff as well as on the whole civil service.

As regards the matter of centralization, why has the government singled out the one branch of translation? A great case is being made at the present time of the fact that the accountants are under one branch. This matter was well explained this afternoon by previous speakers, the senior member for Ottawa, and the hon. member for Labelle. Accountancy is practically the same the world over; an accountant is recognized in Montreal, in Vancouver; ledger entries are practically the same everywhere. Expert men are not required; those that are needed are men who have certain qualifications, who go through a specific course and who prove by passing a civil service examination that they have the qualifications for filling the position. The Secretary of State made a great point of the fact that government accounting work had been centralized. In the same memorandum that I mentioned a few moments ago the Civil Service Commission also recommended the establishment of:

1. An engineering and scientific service to assume the work for the Departments of Public Works, Railways and Canals, Marine and Fisheries, water power branch.

At the present moment, so far as those departments are concerned, there is no mention of amalgamation or centralization.

2. A central accounting service for all government departments.

So far as I can see this is the only service that has been centralized and again we do not need in that work the same measure of expertness as in the translation service.

3. A central purchasing service for all government departments.

Everyone knows that there is an overlapping in the purchasing branches of the government, and again I do not see any sign of any measure to bring about centralization of this work.

4. A central multigraphing and duplicating service.

Again there has been no discussion on this matter and there are no signs of centralizing it.

5. A central photostat, blue-printing, photolithographic and photographic service.

No one has heard of centralizing those activities.

6. Amalgamation of income tax service and Department of Customs and Excise.

Instead of these two departments being centralized, they have been put apart. For instance, the income tax branch has been placed under the Civil Service Commission and instead of centralization of these two departments, for the last three years there has been decentralization.

7. Amalgamation of Surveys branches.

This has not been accomplished so far as I know.

8. Possible amalgamation of Departments of the Secretary of State and External Affairs.

This amalgamation has not been brought about, although it was suggested in the memorandum.

9. Transfer of all legal officers to the Department of Justice.

I am not so much in favour of the centralization of that service because the principle applying to translators and chemists applies just as forcibly to the law branches of the different government departments.

10. Consolidation of departmental libraries and establishment of a central reference library.

So far as I know, there has been no centralization along those lines. Therefore, when the Secretary of State to some extent