

involves the expenditure of a dollar except for the purposes of war, we are establishing this new department with all that it involves. I remember well, when the present Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. A. K. Maclean), as the financial critic on this side of the House, before he struck the trail for Damascus, was loud in his criticism as to the expenditure in connection with these departments, but now he is not satisfied evidently with all the money he can spend in the old departments, but must create new ones in order to have fresh fields for his new zeal as a convert to the faith of hon. gentlemen on the other side. I think it is only fair to the country, and fair to the Government, that it should be pointed out that we have had no explanation why this new department was created. It has not been explained to this House in any way whatsoever why the Department of the Interior was not able to look after this business. It would appear to me the trouble was this: the Prime Minister wanted a new government; he wanted to take in new blood, and he would not take it in without making places for it, and his heart was too tender, he was too much attached to his dear old friends of the dear old times to have them removed, and therefore he took his carving knife and began to cut and carve the departments in order to make room for his friends. That is the only necessity that I can see. I do not think that is any justification. In the old land, when like circumstances arose, Premier Asquith made room for new blood by getting some of his old ministers to go out. There is no record in Great Britain where any department was cut in two to provide new portfolios. But here, whenever anybody was put out, it was done in a way in which almost anybody would like to go out. The ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Hon. Mr. Hazen, for instance, became chief justice of the province of New Brunswick at a salary of \$7,000 a year, a very high position indeed. Almost anybody would be willing to go out under conditions of that kind. And going right down through the list, that is the sort of sacrifice that has been made by hon. gentlemen who left the Government. I strongly protest against this creation or splitting of departments when the business of the country does not require it, merely for the purpose of feathering a nest for foreign birds that wish to go into the Government.

Bill reported.

[Mr. McKenzie.]

THE ROYAL ASSENT.

A message was delivered by Colonel Ernest J. Chambers, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Deputy of His Excellency, the Governor-General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the House went up to the Senate.

And having returned,

The Speaker informed the House that the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General had been pleased to give, in His Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following Bill:

Bill No. 18.—An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1919.

SELECTING STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN presented the following report of the Special Committee appointed to prepare report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees of the House during the present session:

No. 1.

ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

Messieurs :

Armstrong (York),	Jacobs,
Blake,	Keefer,
Boys,	Lapointe (<i>Kamouraska</i>)
Buchanan,	Lemieux,
Bureau,	McCoig,
Cannon,	McIntosh,
Carvell,	McKenzie,
Copp,	McMaster,
Crothers,	Meighen,
Davidson,	Mowat,
Demers,	Nickle,
Devlin,	Porter,
Doherty,	Reid (<i>Mackenzie</i>),
Douglas (Strathcona),	Sifton,
Fripp,	Tweedie, and
Guthrie,	Vien.—32.

No. 2.

ON RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES.

Messieurs :

Ames (Sir Herbert),	Lancôt,
Anderson,	Lapointe
Andrews,	(<i>Kamouraska</i>),
Archambault,	Lapointe
Armstrong (Lambton),	(<i>St. James</i>),
Arthurs,	Lavigueur,
Ballantyne,	Leduc,
Blair,	Lemieux,
Bonnell,	Lesage,
Boyer,	Mackie (<i>Edmonton</i>),
Boys,	Mackie (<i>Renfrew</i>),
Bristol,	Maclean (<i>York</i>),
Buchanan,	MacNutt,
Bureau,	McCoig,