

I have a pretty distinct recollection.—I am not going to state it positively—that before writing to those gentlemen on the subject, I examined a letter or was made acquainted with a communication from the right hon. the leader of the Opposition at that time the Prime Minister, and that he laid down precisely the same principle to be observed by them in the performance of their duties. My hon. friend seems to have formed a different impression. I shall be glad to refresh my memory on the point, and we could let the item stand. I know that I had in mind to follow the same course as was laid down in some communication by the then Prime Minister to the gentlemen whom he proposed to recommend, and whom he did recommend, to the British Government as suitable commissioners to represent Canada.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I had more especially in my memory the conversation I had with Mr. Barnhill, whom I gave to understand distinctly that he was expected to devote all his time to the work of the commission, and that he would have to remove his residence to Ottawa. Possibly my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, then the Prime Minister, might have taken a different view, but at all events, that is the view I formed at that time.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not make the assertion positively, but I have a distinct recollection that we followed the same course in that regard as was proposed by the late Government. Of course, as my hon. friend has already mentioned, and as I would like to emphasize, we could hardly expect a leading member of the bar in any province in Canada to give his whole time to this work for the remuneration that is granted, which is I think \$7,500. The leading men of the bar, I think in every province, are in receipt of much larger incomes than that. The remuneration of the Commissioners is less than the salary of a judge of some courts, and the appointment is only temporary. They cannot be assured that the treaty will be continued beyond the ten or eleven years mentioned, and they do not enjoy, as a judge does, any provision by way of pension, even if they were to remain commissioners for thirty years.

Mr. GRAHAM: They are no worse off than Cabinet Ministers.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: If Parliament desires to get the best men for the work, and the best men we can get are none too

good for a tribunal of this kind, and if it expects them to devote the whole of their time to the work of the Commission, I think it would be necessary to increase very largely the remuneration which is now provided by law for the Commissioners.

To assist in suppression of the white slave traffic, \$10,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Was the vote all expended during the past year?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I cannot say, but we could let the item stand, and I shall ascertain.

Mr. PUGSLEY: This might be one of the items which the Minister of Finance had in mind to strike out.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am not sure it was expended, but I have not examined the Auditor General's report.

Mr. OLIVER: Under what authority is this expenditure made?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It is under the charge of Colonel Sherwood, the Commissioner of Dominion Police, who has his agents and representatives in different parts of the country.

Mr. GRAHAM: Has the Minister of Justice anything to do with the administration of the fund? There must 10 p.m. be some judicial action in some of those cases, and I would like to know whether that lies with the Minister of Justice or with the provincial authorities.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I imagine that the agents and representatives of Colonel Sherwood would lay information for any offence against the law, and then proceedings would be carried on under the provincial authorities. Doubtless Colonel Sherwood and his agents and representatives would see to it that the evidence was forthcoming.

Mr. GRAHAM: It would be interesting to know how many convictions were obtained under this machinery during the past year.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I will get a report from Colonel Sherwood. Of course my hon. friend will bear in mind that the object is not merely to punish offences, but to prevent their commission; and really, I think the energies of Colonel Sherwood and those whom he employs for this purpose are chiefly directed to the latter consideration.