

stressed in presenting this motion, and that is the desirability or otherwise of a member of the Government being a member of the Committee. I feel that that is a rather important point by reason of the fact that the mover has seen fit to include my name on the Committee, and having been a member of a Government that made some efforts toward Civil Service reorganisation, I feel that the present Government should not entirely divorce itself from any and all responsibility in connection with this inquiry of the Senate by not having any representative on the Committee.

I very well recall that an honest effort was undertaken by the former Government and some progress was made toward a readjustment along the lines of economy and greater efficiency in the Civil Service, and very serious exception was taken to the action of the Government. Some of the things done—perhaps they should never have been done—were undone. This investigation may prove that to be the case. But I do think that there should not be members of the late Government on the Committee unless there are members of the present Government on it also, and I would respectfully suggest that either my name and that of the Hon. Mr. Calder be withdrawn, or that some representative of the present Government, preferably the honourable the Leader of the Government in this House, should be added to the Committee.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have given the reasons which prompted me to remain off the Committee, but it is not my intention to shun any responsibility. I believe that we should all put our shoulders to the wheel in the effort to reduce the expenditure of Government, and although I may not be able to follow the Committee very closely, I am quite willing that my name should be added if it is thought desirable.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: I should like to ask the Leader of the Government whether the Committee will have the right to examine into the utility of any institution with a view of having that institution abolished. For instance, scattered over this country there are offices connected with the Receiver General's offices. In Halifax there is one of these offices with two or three clerks. The greater part of the work that used to be done by that particular branch is done now by the chartered banks, and I think that practically all of those offices should be wiped out of existence.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: That will be for the Committee to deal with.

Hon. Mr. ROSS: Can the Committee inquire into that matter and make a recommendation that those institutions be abolished?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I can certainly answer in the affirmative.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I presume, honourable gentlemen, that the Committee may from time to time report to this House and ask that its scope be enlarged. That is, I think, invariably the practice of committees of this nature.

As to the question of salaries, it is very desirable that the Committee should be permitted to inquire into the cost of the different branches, or the salaries paid to the different members of the Service to whom the Committee's attention may be drawn. It is necessary, for this purpose. Probably the most burning question to-day before the country is the reduction of expenditure—not the reduction of the strength of the Service, but the reduction of Civil Service expenditures; and while it is not desirable to pass upon the question whether the salaries are too high or too low, or whether they should be adjusted to circumstances, yet the standard by which the public judge the service that is being rendered in any branch of the administration is based upon dollars and cents, and it seems to me that unless the Committee have power to make inquiry into the cost of that particular branch of the Service which we may be examining into at the time, the result will be unsatisfactory and it will be impossible to form a proper judgment as to the expenditure. I suggest that to my honourable friend for his consideration, without moving any change in the form of the motion which is before the Chamber.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The motion is large enough to cover the question of cost. It will simply be for the Committee to decide as to its policy.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: I look upon this Committee as perhaps one of the most important that the Senate has appointed for some time, and I trust that it will have power to take evidence under oath. I make that suggestion because otherwise it will be very difficult to obtain the information desired by the Senate from departmental officials still in the Service. For instance, Deputy Ministers have told various committees that their own Department was not overmanned; consequently it will be very hard for a Deputy