

intendent in some bureau, can you say whether that will constitute an improvement in the manner of translations and the quality of translations or whether it will not?—A. That would depend on what kind of superintendent it would be. Of course, if he let us largely alone, I think it would be all right. If he interfered with our work, it would be rather difficult; it would make things harder for us, for our work is special, of course.

Q. I think I get your angle. If the translating branch of the debates was put into this great big bureau, and had but one superintendent to look after all of the diversified interests that would find themselves in that bureau, would it constitute an improvement in the translation of the debates?—A. Well, I do not think so, but I may be mistaken. He might be a man of superior attainments and may give us some pretty good ideas, but I do not see how it would work. We are getting along pretty well, much satisfied with it now, and we are improving all the time.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think there is any suggestion of that, Mr. Gerin. If you will look at section 5 you will see it provides, “(1) an officer to be called the superintendent of the bureau for translations shall be appointed under the Civil Service Act, who shall hold office during pleasure, and whose duties shall be to supervise and control the bureau under the direction of the Minister.” There is no suggestion anywhere in the bill, as I understand it, and I have read it several times, that there will not be general translators in the different branches, and so forth.

Mr. CHEVRIER: That may be so, but my difficulty is this: It is not stated in the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: You can never state a matter of administration in a bill. All you can do is make statutory provision, and I assume that the Civil Service Commission will do its best to try to work out something that gives the most efficient service.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I cannot discuss that with the witness.

The CHAIRMAN: You are at liberty to discuss it but I am merely pointing out that I do not think that is under contemplation.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions, gentlemen.

*By Mr. Pouliot:*

Q. If there is, in accordance with the provisions of the bill, a general superintendent, would it then be necessary to have a chief translator of the debates branch of the House of Commons as well?—A. Well, I should think so.

Q. Yes?—A. Unless they work out a plan—

Q. To have general control?—A. We are doing real team work and the chief translator is the chief of that field. He must be there because it is quick work.

Q. There must be a leader?—A. There must be a decision given promptly several times a day.

*By Mr. Laurin:*

Q. Mr. Gerin, you have been there since 1904?—A. In that office, yes. Before that I was in the Department of Agriculture.

*By Mr. Pouliot:*

Q. Translation?—A. No, I was secretary to the commission.

*By Mr. Laurin:*

Q. Now, have you any power to go to another department and ask them to go ahead with the work?—A. To help.

Q. To go ahead with the work?—A. Oh, no.