

Mr. O. Letourneau, chief of repairs, has recently left the service, owing to old age, and nobody is to be appointed to take his place. The salary is \$1,560 per year.

Colonel M. F. Gregg, V.C., Sergeant-at-Arms, with a remuneration of \$5,120 per year, was granted leave of absence when he joined His Majesty's forces on the 1st of January, 1940, and the Clerk of the House has taken over the management of his branch, consisting of constables, messengers, cleaners, page-boys and servants. No additional remuneration is paid the Clerk for that work.

Mr. T. M. Fraser, whose salary was \$5,120, as Assistant Clerk, was superannuated in January, 1942, and nobody has yet been appointed to take his place. Mr. C. W. Boyce, Chief of Journals branch, was assigned to attend the sittings of the house while continuing to do his own work, without additional remuneration, but all the office work performed by the Assistant Clerk has been divided between the Clerk and the Accountant.

Clerk of the House

The Clerk of the House is the chief officer who is responsible for the management of the house's affairs, as well as the controller of all its expenses. The estimates paid every year for the house's overhead, including members' indemnities cannot be paid by the accountant unless it has been approved by the Clerk of the House. This includes pay-lists and accounts as well as expenses. Members' statements of their attendance and the forms they have to sign have to be submitted to and checked by the Clerk. The Clerk has to inspect them as he is responsible under the Audit Act for all money paid out on the house's account. The printing bureau cannot deliver any stationery supplies or print any document unless the order is given over the Clerk's signature. The Clerk, particularly since January, 1940, when he assumed the Sergeant-at-Arms' duties, is head of a staff of 575 persons employed in the whole service of the house, from the last charwoman up to the Law Clerk, the Chief of Journals, or Editor of Debates. He has to see that the building is kept clean, the service well done and discipline kept in the staff.

Constables, messengers and page-boys have to wear uniforms. It is the Clerk's duty to supervise the purchase of material and repairs needed for these clothes. A close inspection is here necessary.

The Clerk in his capacity as deputy head, is bound to see that police protection is given the building and people who work in it. This work has been entrusted to the Clerk since

1940, and in addition to these duties he must exercise the most important duty of all, that of acting as adviser to the Leader of the House and the Speaker on questions of procedure. It must be realized that the Audit Act, the Civil Service Act, the Superannuation Act, the Printing Act, the House of Commons Act, the Senate and House of Commons Act, and above all, the British North America Act, deal with matters connected with the House of Commons, and the only officer the house has to rely upon for their interpretation is the Clerk of the House. During sessions particularly he is consulted by members of the house on these laws as well as on procedure. There are many other functions connected with the Clerkship of the House of Commons but the above are sufficient to show that the position of the Clerk of the House has developed into one of the busiest and most exacting posts in our public service. I must be allowed to say this that the accumulation of these duties upon the Clerk has been a considerable strain upon his health and may have impaired it. I sincerely trust not and that for years yet the house will benefit from his unrivalled knowledge and experience. And I must also say that these extra duties as Acting Sergeant-at-Arms which he has undertaken have meant a saving of over \$15,000 since he took that office because the Clerk receives no extra remuneration as Acting Sergeant-at-Arms.

Protective Service

We had 34 men for the first part of the session of 1940 and 25 for the recess. For the second part of the session in 1941 we had 33 men and 24 for the recess. We only have 28 men for the present session. This is not a large staff when we consider that constables are on duty 24 hours a day and have to guard three outside doors, the main entrance hall, the library, the Chamber and the upper corridors.

Stenographers Branch

A complete stenographic service to the members of the house during sessions of parliament is necessary. This service includes the taking of dictation, the transcription of notes, copying of documents, in both English and French, filing correspondence and all other related work. Another important duty of this branch is the copy of returns laid on the table during the session when requested by members. It also supplies a duplicating and stencil service for the house. Great numbers of envelopes for the use of members in distributing speeches and other literature