

he says this commission is being created for the purpose of cutting down work. Then he is appointing a director over them, and there is no telling how many are to be added to this new department of the Civil Service. Yet I am to be told by the President of the Council that I am afraid of my own action and the action of the Opposition in this House because we are opposed to the creation of a new department and the further involving of the people of this country in the unnecessary expenditure of millions of dollars year after year. If that is all that I have any reason to be afraid of, or if that is the only mistake I have made in my position as leader, I have very little to fear from the judgment of the people.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Would it not be wise to empower the commission to rent whatever buildings are necessary for the various public services in Ottawa? This question of renting buildings is a very important one and is the cause of very large expenditure; and if the minister wishes to save money by the creation of this commission he cannot apply its faculties more effectively than in looking after rentals of buildings in Ottawa.

Mr. ROWELL: The Public Works Department is, of course, specially charged with that, and I think the commission will have plenty to do under its present powers.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Will the minister have in the Bill a clause concerning those advertisements?

Mr. ROWELL: What I said was that that question would come up for consideration properly under paragraph (d) of section 2, the interpretation clause, which stands over for further consideration. When that comes up the matter will be further considered.

Section agreed to.

On section 7—sale of supplies.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Should this not be by tender, if junk is sold to a reputable firm by tender?

Mr. ROWELL: I do not see any objection to putting that in. That is the procedure. I move to amend clause 7 by adding at the end thereof the words "by tender."

Amendment agreed to.

Section, as amended, agreed to.

On section 9—Records of War Purchasing Commission.

Mr. LEMIEUX: That is to say, the commission will take over the supplies of the War Purchasing Commission in order to—

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Mr. ROWELL: Carry on the work.

Mr. LEMIEUX: "Documents and supplies of the War Purchasing Commission." That means that the commission has, during the war, bought supplies which are today of no use, and I suppose they are selling at public auction.

Mr. ROWELL: No. The supplies, such as my hon. friend refers to, that is supplies of the Militia Department and of other departments, belong to the various departments, and the commission is disposing of some of those supplies as surplus supplies. The word "supplies" in this clause means stationery, office supplies and fixtures which the commission has and which will pass over to the new commission.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Are there not war supplies?

Mr. ROWELL: Those are in the possession of the different departments,—the militia supplies in the possession of the Militia Department, the naval supplies in the possession of the Naval Department, and so on.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: This commission will not have control of war supplies?

Mr. ROWELL: Not under this clause. Under clause 7 the commission has exclusive control and charge of all surplus war supplies. What we are doing in this clause is to say that supplies such as stationery, office furniture and so on which the commission has on hand will be taken over by the new commission.

Section agreed to.

On section 10—other duties:

Mr. McKENZIE: I have here a letter from one of the big business firms of Canada, it reads:

I am taking the liberty of drawing to your attention that the Government are passing a Bill at the present time to renew the War Service Purchasing Committee. I understand that this commission is only a duplication of the purchasing machinery and is not in the interest of economy as all the Government departments have at the present time well organized purchasing offices. I am also under the impression that the War Service Purchasing Committee which is just expiring has not altogether been a success as the buying has been done by amateurs, and the consequence is that at the present time the Government is loaded up with materials, etc., bought at very high prices for which they have no use. Perhaps this matter might be worth sifting out.

That is from a business man in one of the big cities in Canada. Are the surplus