

Desbarats has been made the Deputy Minister of the Department of National Defence.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Then my hon. friend is right. We have only got one deputy, and it is a good thing to that extent. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Bureau) ought to get some practical results out of a close co-operation between the officials that collect the income tax and those that collect the sales tax. On the other hand a large amount of money can be thrown away if he multiplies the income tax machinery all over the country. There are a great many customs ports throughout Canada. If my hon. friend's idea is to turn every single customs port into a place where income taxes are to be collected I tell him frankly he will be making a very great mistake. It is a difficult task to collect these taxes—to arrive at the amount and get the money in. My hon. friend will have a great deal of educational work training his officials and even then the collecting will not be properly done. If the duties in connection with taxation were co-ordinated in such a way that there would be a common knowledge which would be applied in the case of both the income tax and the sales tax it would be very helpful. The Income Tax department to-day could save the Sales Tax Collection department a tremendous amount of money immediately. They know, or practically ought to know, the approximate amount which should be paid in sales taxes. They know this from the information which is contained in the income tax return, and that information has always been available. If it were made use of, it would be quite possible for us to know what the arrears were, what the rebates were, and the like. When we had the discussion on the question of the sales tax it was pointed out that the House could not get this information because the department had not got it. But when we have the two branches working together there ought to be co-ordination with the most satisfactory results.

Mr. GOULD: In the Speech from the Throne the creation of a board of this kind was announced, but I had inferred that its operations would be much wider in scope than is likely to be the case. Furthermore, during the budget debate we gathered the impression from a statement made by the Acting Minister of Finance that through this board investigations might be made of watered stock, in connection with industrial enterprises. From my reading of the present resolution I doubt very much whether this board could conduct investigations of that

nature and yet there is involved a very close relation to the principle of taxation. Like my hon. friend from West York (Sir Henry Drayton) I believe that we should not set up a board that is going to be unduly expensive to the country. And yet if that board, by its investigations, vindicates the hopes we entertain with respect to it the expense may well be justified. While the hon. member for West York was enlarging on the subject of expenditure and warning the government against plunging into costly undertakings there occurred to my mind certain expenditures which he himself was largely responsible for. There was, for example, the Tariff commission under the late government which cost Canada a considerable amount of money.

I am also thinking at the present moment of the Price-Waterhouse report, which came in at the same time, which was likewise almost pigeon-holed. So that I do not know whether we need fear any more about this government spending money recklessly. We have likewise the charge that the present Royal Grain Inquiry Commission will not bring in a report that will be beneficial to the people. It is my firm belief that if the Royal Grain Inquiry Commission make their report they will not get across the floor of the House quite as easily as did the Price-Waterhouse report, which was brought in during the regime of my hon. friend. I am fully in favour of this board, but I do not think it should be composed of one individual, it should be composed of at least three; and the members of the board should be appointed with the consent of the whole of parliament, and not by the government alone. I simply make that recommendation and hope that when the bill is presented to the House it will incorporate some of these provisions.

Mr. HOEY: How many members will there be on the board?

Mr. BUREAU: Three. That is the intention now.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Will the board be appointed through the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. BUREAU: The bill will provide that the board shall be appointed by the Governor General in Council, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary. That is my idea. This board may require the services of expert men for a week, or two or three weeks; and it seems to me that if we have to wait six weeks or six months before you can get them together, it will hardly be