

mission, and if you do not increase the number to nineteen it will mean that only a very small group of men will be dealing with these routine matters, because you could hardly call the representatives of the nine provinces together to deal with matters of detail. I can see a great deal of merit in having enough members to carry on the ordinary work of the commission, and when any larger matter of policy has to be discussed the representatives of all the provinces could be called together.

Mr. BURTON: I am not a stickler as to just how the purpose should be accomplished, and if the minister thinks that the suggestion of the hon. member for Fraser Valley would answer the purpose I would be agreeable, but I was of the opinion that fifteen members on the commission would be sufficient. The leader of the opposition has indicated his suggestion as a possible amendment. I have also prepared a suggestion to amend clause 5 of this section by striking out the words "either" and "or" where they appear in the third, fourth and fifth lines of the clause; and that the clause be further amended by inserting the words "one in" immediately preceding the names of each of the following provinces: Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. I think that would cover what we have in mind. It would give to each province a representative on the commission and leave the membership on the commission at fifteen, which in my opinion would be sufficient for the time being.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The reason I gave this morning against this suggestion was that there are already nine commissioners in office who have performed valuable service. The next section of the bill provides that they shall remain as part of the number to constitute the enlarged commission. It would be embarrassing to ask any of these gentlemen to retire before the expiry of his term of office. In view of the desire expressed that there be a member chosen especially to represent the whole people of each province it was felt that the easier way would be to provide them as additions to the commission rather than to ask the members of the commission who have been giving good service and who are entitled to the gratitude of the community for the services they have given to retire before the time fixed in the following section.

Mr. BRACKEN: What are the names of the members of the commission?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: They are: Frederic E. Bronson, Chairman; Dr. R. Chevrier; J. W. Ste. Marie; C. J. Booth; J. B. Spencer; J. A.

Ewart; D. K. MacTavish; A. J. Major; Mayor Stanley Lewis; and there is one vacancy, which is to be filled by an appointee of the municipal council of the city of Hull. Of course, technically the desire which has been expressed could be satisfied if we had no one representing the provinces as a whole of Ontario and Quebec in addition to those representing the cities of Ottawa and Hull, but that would not be carrying out the spirit of the proposals. The spirit of the proposal is to have one from each province not representing the immediate locality but the people of the province as a whole. It would not be carrying out that idea to have the whole population of Ontario represented by the Mayor of Ottawa, or to have the whole population of Quebec represented by the mayor or a designate of the council of the city of Hull. So it seemed that the spirit moving hon. members' request that there be a representative of the whole population of each province would be better met by increasing the number of those who make up the commission than by asking any of the gentlemen who have heretofore served to retire and make way for someone else.

Mr. BRACKEN: I have a suggestion, if the minister would be prepared to consider it, which would perhaps accomplish both his own purpose and what I think would be the desire of the house. As the terms of the present members expire they could be replaced with representatives of provinces not then represented on the commission. I offer that as a suggestion to the minister.

Mr. BOUCHER: May I point out to the minister another thing that might be taken into consideration in the appointment of these men. Ottawa is allowed one member, and Hull, with a population of about 33,000, is allowed one member, but the suburban areas surrounding Ottawa, which have a population perhaps greater than Hull and which bear a substantial relation to the population of Ottawa, are not represented. As I said last night, I think Carleton county is a most important part of the federal area. In choosing these men we have to choose them from the national rather than the local viewpoint, yet we should choose men who will be primarily concerned with the problem facing the government.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Give us the nineteen members and we will be able to do that.

Mr. BOUCHER: The members of the present federal district commission have been conversant with the problems here and they have done an excellent job. The members of