

who are lawyers are constantly engaged in the practice of their profession, and I think it is not at all worthy of that court that gentlemen who are members of it should be engaged in hearing these questions of enormous importance affecting the interests of the two nations one week, and the next week be trying small cases in a county court, or in the Supreme Court of one of the provinces. If the salary is not large enough to induce them to give all their time to the work of this Commission, it ought to be increased. I believe, too, that the position ought to be a permanent one. It is now for ten years, but, of course, there might be a change in the personnel with a change of Government, if a new Government were to follow the procedure set by this Government. I remember my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, when a criticism was made of the cancellation of the previous appointments, made the defence that the members of the Commission ought to be in touch with the Government of the day. I take an entirely different view from that. To ensure for the decisions of this court the respect and the confidence of both countries, it ought to be recognized that it is an International court, that it is not subject to be influenced by the Government of either country, and that all questions that come before it will be decided according to the principles of right and justice, irrespective of the wishes of the Government which happens to appoint either one or the other branch of the tribunal. I should think the tribunal ought to be of a permanent character, and the gentlemen who comprise it ought to devote their entire attention to the very important work which they have to perform. It may be that the salaries are not large enough, but I think the Government ought to consider whether it would not be well to fix the salaries at such an amount as would ensure the giving by the members of that court, so far as Canada is concerned, all their attention to the work of the tribunal. I have very little doubt that if the Canadian Government were to adopt that course the Government of the United States would follow suit. The questions which may be referred to this tribunal are of enormous importance. There may be referred to it questions which either Government may desire to have referred to it, and also, by the joint desire of the two Governments, all questions, not merely boundary disputes, but all questions of every nature and kind which may arise

[Mr. Pugsley.]

affecting the relations between Canada and the United States. One has only to mention the important subjects which will come before it to realize of what vast importance this court is and how much it may accomplish in the future towards preserving amicable relations between these two countries.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I entirely agree with my hon. friend as to the importance of this tribunal; indeed, I took occasion, when speaking in New York not long ago, to emphasize the very great importance of the work it had accomplished. It has brought about in a very quiet way, and with no loss of time, the settlement of many disputes which it might have taken a very long time to settle by diplomatic methods, and which might not have been settled by diplomatic methods in the same satisfactory manner as has characterized the work of this tribunal. So far as the appointment of commissioners is concerned, those representing Canada consist of two very eminent members of the legal profession, and the gentleman to whom my hon. friend from St. John has made allusion. I think the latter gentleman practically gives the whole of his time to the work of the Commission, and he is a man of a thoroughly judicial type, although not a lawyer. I do not believe that any member of the Commission, on either side, has given better service than that gentleman has given during the time he has been a member of the Commission. I am not so fully acquainted with the members appointed by the United States, but I do know that Mr. Tawney, who is, I think, chairman of the United States Commission, is a very eminent lawyer, a man who has taken a distinguished place at the bar of his State, and is regarded as a leader in his profession.

With respect to the point which my hon. friend has raised, that the members of the legal profession, who are members of the Canadian Commission, do not devote the whole of their time to the work, and engage in private practice, I may say the stipulation made with them when they undertook the work was that their duties as members of the Commission were to be considered as paramount and as having precedence over any work in the private practice of their profession. If I remember correctly, and I think I have a fairly correct remembrance of the matter, we followed in that regard the same instructions as were given to the gentlemen whom the late Administration proposed to appoint. I think