

judges, and revoke such appointments; appoint for any district or registry division of any district a deputy registrar; and when the local judge of the Quebec Admiralty district resides in Montreal, the deputy local judge residing in Quebec shall be paid the salary which he would have received if he were the local judge of the district; and when the local judge resides at Quebec, the deputy local judge residing at Montreal shall receive the salary which he would have received if he were the local judge of the district; but not more than one deputy local judge in any district shall receive a salary.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General has been informed of the subject matter of this resolution, and has been pleased to recommend the same to the consideration of the House.

Motion agreed to.

PORTFOLIO OF RAILWAYS

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Prime Minister be good enough to tell us now when we may expect an end of the present makeshift arrangement as to the Department of Railways and Canals?

Mr. GRAHAM: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The present arrangement is a very good one.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the House has a right to a better answer than that. I used the term "makeshift" because it was the name the Prime Minister himself applied a few years ago to a similar arrangement. I think the Prime Minister owes it to the House to say what his intentions are as to time in this regard—how long he expects it will be before there will be a regularly constituted minister in charge of this department. The House is in session and the need of a regularly constituted minister is much greater than if the House were not in session.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think the House has been embarrassed in any way, in view of the arrangement at the present time. My hon. friend will appreciate that, in the matter of filling a cabinet vacancy, the Prime Minister must be allowed sufficient time. I do not think it is imperative to fill the vacancy at the present time.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I know the Prime Minister must be allowed sufficient time, but all I am asking is, not that he be not allowed the time, but that he advise the House as nearly as he can what time he considers necessary.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not in a position to give my right hon. friend a definite answer.

HANSARD—MISSING PAGES

On the Orders of the Day.

Mr. DONALD SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): I would like to direct the attention of the House to a matter which occurred on 6th March when the estimates of the Defence department were before the committee. I asked a question with reference to an item and was told that the information I desired was contained in Hansard of last year. I sent to my room for the bound copy of Hansard which had been supplied to me. Afterwards I made further reference to the matter, but was informed by the chairman of the committee that I was out of order in doing so. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) asked me a question, and, instead of answering him, I sent across the floor of the House the bound volume which I had obtained. He is reported in Hansard to have said:

In the copy of Hansard which my hon. friend has just handed me it looks as though those pages had been cut out.

I did not take notice of it at the time, but I have observed since that several references have been made to it in the press, and the impression is being given, or the insinuation made, that some person was a party to cutting these leaves out of Hansard. I called up Mr. Cook, who, I thought, was still connected with the Bureau. A few days ago I handed him the volume and he took it to the Librarian of Parliament. I interviewed the librarian, and from him I have obtained the following statement which, with your permission and the consent of the House, I would like to have placed on Hansard:

OTTAWA, 8th March, 1923.

DONALD SUTHERLAND, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear sir,—I beg to confirm what I mentioned to you this morning: Mr. Fred Cook brought to the library, this morning, a copy of the House of Commons Hansard, vol. 3, 1922, out of which after page 2082, a whole signature was missing. Being asked if there was any trace of this signature having been either torn from the book or otherwise separated from it, I carefully examined the appearance of the volume, and found no sign of cut thread, or remnant of the sewing thread. I concluded and answered that this was evidently a case of the gatherer at the printing bureau having omitted to insert the missing signature in its proper place, or having wrongly placed it elsewhere. I brought the volume to our expert binder, Mr. Brown, and asked him what he thought of the appearance, and he fully confirmed my impression.

Yours very truly,

J. de L. TACHÉ,
General Librarian.