

comes upon him a volume of additional demands for which no preparation whatever has been previously made. In other departments it is easy to add to the staff here and there as fresh demands arise. For example, large staffs have been added to the Department of National Defence and to the Department of Munitions and Supply to assist in meeting the demands war has created. In my own office, as Prime Minister I have had to assist me in meeting new situations from day to day since this session began, only Mr. Brockington in addition to one or two other younger men whom I have been able to borrow from some of the other departments. He is the only person who has been given a special retainer in connection with the Prime Minister's office, and this not merely because he is doing some highly specialized work requiring wide knowledge of men and affairs, but because of the exceptional judgment and ability which he possesses.

So far as Mr. Brockington's services are concerned they are not confined to myself. He has generously shared his abilities with my colleagues in the cabinet in connection with many matters to which they have been obliged to give their attention. There is not a day passes when there does not arise some question which calls for careful and thoughtful consideration before the Prime Minister is in a position even to discuss it with his colleagues. In matters of the kind it is absolutely necessary that I should have someone in the capacity of a counsellor attached to my office. Mr. Brockington is one of the leading counsel in Canada. He has had large retainers and he has accepted the position which he now holds in my office at great personal and financial sacrifice. Through myself and the government, in the advice and counsel which he has given to me personally and to the cabinet touching a hundred and one different matters that have come up, he has rendered this country an exceptional service.

I could say a good deal more, but perhaps I have said enough to indicate that at least there is some justification for the Prime Minister having at his side, at a time like the present, a gentleman with wide experience in affairs, an able counsellor, one who is largely informed on public matters, and who because of his special attainments is in a position to be able to render an absolutely essential service to the office of prime minister and to the country in the present state of world affairs.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I made no attack on Mr. Brockington. I made no attack on the Prime Minister, or anything in the nature of an attack, with respect to the matters to which he has alluded. All I rose

to do was to call attention to what I considered was an inaccurate reply to a question on the order paper.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope I have made it plain that the reply was not inaccurate.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I do not think the right hon. gentleman referred to the gravamen of the question at all. In my judgment he entirely disregarded it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Brockington's name was not mentioned on the question at all. I did not assume it had reference to Mr. Brockington; I assumed it had reference to some appointment similar to the appointment made by a former government in the last war, of someone to write a history of the war. It is true that my hon. friend has said nothing in the way of an attack to-day, but he has brought Mr. Brockington's name up on one or two previous occasions. He has been kind enough to say to me that he did not mean anything he said as any attack on Mr. Brockington; quite clearly then he meant what he said as a reflection on myself. At any rate I have taken it as such, and I am replying to what he said in a way which I think will justify before the country the position in which I have been placed.

In addition I would point out that while my hon. friend has been reflecting upon me in the house in this matter, some of his supporting journals on the outside have been making their attack from an opposite point of view; they have been saying it was part of my business to stand up and defend Mr. Brockington. My hon. friend said he was not attacking Mr. Brockington, so that no defence of him was needed; yet by his press on the outside I am being attacked on the score that I have attached to my office a gentleman who is being attacked and I am not defending him.

So far as Mr. Brockington is concerned, I think his abilities speak for themselves, I do not think he needs any defence. So far as I am concerned I am prepared to abide by such attack as has been made and the explanation I have given.

DEBTS DUE THE CROWN

DEDUCTION FROM SALARIES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RESIDENT IN PROVINCES OF PROVINCIAL TAXES COLLECTABLE BY DOMINION

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 99, to amend an act respecting debts due to the crown.

He said: The dominion government has agreements with some of the provinces under which the dominion government collects income