

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Why was it taken from him?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The Minister of Agriculture desired as Deputy Minister of Agriculture a gentleman who was experienced in agricultural matters. The Bill proposes to make Mr. O'Halloran commissioner of patents, with the rank of deputy minister, and that the office and rank shall remain so long as Mr. O'Halloran is in the public service. It is not for the present deemed desirable to enact that the office and rank of the Commissioner of Patents shall always continue. It is to do justice to Mr. O'Halloran. He will retain the status of a deputy minister while he is in the public service, and he will be designated Commissioner of Patents.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Mr. O'Halloran is the victim of circumstances. First of all, I never saw much of a connection between the archives and the patent branch, copyright and agriculture. But, at the time of Confederation, Sir John Macdonald saw fit to unite in the Department of Agriculture those various branches of the public service. Since that time a very fortunate change has taken place. The Archives Branch has gone where it ought to have been from the first—under the Secretary of State—and patents, copyrights and trade marks where they should have gone from the beginning. But then the Department of Trade and Commerce did not exist—the child was born since. The administration of these various Acts belongs properly to the Department of Trade and Commerce. When I was in the Government the late Minister of Agriculture and Sir Wilfrid Laurier discussed many a time the propriety of making this transfer. Mr. O'Halloran has always been a faithful public servant. Although he was not himself a practical farmer, yet when he was at the head of the Department of Agriculture, he always gave ample satisfaction to the great farming community of Canada. He was a most courteous gentleman and most assiduous in the discharge of his duties. But Mr. O'Halloran being a lawyer by profession, and a very distinguished lawyer—both he and his father before him—he would naturally prefer, as between the two branches of the Department of Agriculture, to accept the position which is now left to him as Commissioner of Patents. I wish to say this because the other day I congratulated the then Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar), upon the appointment of Mr. Grisdale. I thought

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

it was an excellent appointment, because Mr. Grisdale is a practical farmer known all over Canada, and has studied the latest methods of the United States Department of Agriculture. My hon. friend knows the progress that agriculture has made in the Western States through the progressive policy of Mr. Smith, the Secretary of Agriculture in the United States, and as a result of the various advanced methods employed by the department. Mr. Grisdale is a man who could go into any country and, as a practical farmer, play his part with the greatest credit. Therefore, it was a good appointment when Mr. Grisdale was named Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion. I think likewise that Mr. O'Halloran will be an excellent deputy head, or commissioner, for the new branch that is added to the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I notice that this Bill deals with the administration of the Copyright Act, but I am somewhat disappointed that no provision is made in it relating to copyrights. There has been a good deal of complaint in the press and on the part of authors throughout the country that they are not properly protected by the existing copyright law and I expected that the question of copyright would be dealt with and that something would be done in that connection. I would like to ask the minister whether the Government intends introducing legislation to improve the existing Copyright Act in Canada.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: My hon. friend (Mr. Sinclair) apparently does not know that a Copyright Bill was introduced in the Senate this year on behalf of the Government. Progress was made up to a certain stage but opposition to the Bill developed and lately little progress was made. Personally I think we should have in this country legislation upon this subject and I regret very much, indeed, that greater progress has not been made with the Bill in the Senate. If for any reason the Bill should not pass the Senate, the Government propose to introduce legislation again next year and probably it will be introduced in this Chamber. I blame myself largely for considering the introduction of the Bill in the Senate. It happened by reason of the fact that in the early days of the session we were quite busy here while the Senate were anxious to get some work and I thought progress might be made by giving them the Bill. Personally, I am very strongly in favour of the Bill