

by His Honour the Speaker, on the thirty-first day of March, be approved and confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was not my purpose, Mr. Chairman, to make any general statement in regard to the proposed plan of organization, but to meet as they came any suggestions which might be offered by hon. members. I may say, however, in a general way, that the practice of moving the House into committee to consider this plan is that which was followed in the case of the reorganization of the House in the year 1913 and also in the year 1908. I think that there is probably less necessity to-day for a special committee to consider the proposal than there would have been on either of the two former occasions for the reason that the House of Commons is now concerned only with the bringing down of a plan of organization. The question of salaries and the question as to who shall occupy given positions is now by special statute handed over to the Civil Service Commission. It therefore remains for the House to merely produce the skeleton of an organization. I do not know that there is anything further that I can say, except to mention the fact that on the two previous occasions, notably in 1913, on the suggestion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the items were taken up one by one. I would suggest that this course be now followed.

Mr. BELAND: There can be no objection to that.

Law Branch—Parliamentary Counsel, chief assistant to Parliamentary Counsel, two assistants to Parliamentary Counsel, three officials; sessional assistance as required.

Mr. BELAND: Is there any departure from the previous classification in regard to this branch?

Mr. SPEAKER: None whatever.

Mr. ETHIER: Is there not some change? Has some new position not been created in connection with the office of Parliamentary Counsel?

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no changes in the Law Branch, except provision for an extra assistant whose services are required.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: Is there not some motion now before the Senate with a view to combining the law offices of the Commons and of the Senate, and bring them under one branch?

Mr. SPEAKER: The proposal to amalgamate the Law Branches of the Senate and of the Commons is now before the House for consideration by message from the Senate.

[Sir George Foster.]

Mr. MIDDLEBRO: Therefore, should that branch not stand?

Mr. PROULX: What are the qualifications of the assistants to the Parliamentary Counsel? The Chief Assistant and the two other assistants must be professional men, I suppose.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, they must be barristers.

Mr. PROULX: Is any one of these assistants required to know both languages?

An hon. MEMBER: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, one of the officials now is familiar with both languages.

Mr. GAUVREAU: That is a better answer.

Mr. McKENZIE: Since the classification of 1913, have there been any changes in the personnel of the Law Branch?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. The Law Branch has been further reorganized since the general reorganization of 1913; or, perhaps to put it another way, the branch was reorganized in consequence of the general scheme of reorganization of 1913. There have been no changes in personnel, other than those resultant from natural causes: one arising from the loss of a member of the staff at the front, and the other in connection with the appointment of a stenographer.

Agreed to.

Journals Branch—Chief of Journals and Secretarial Branch, assistant chief of Journals and Secretarial Branch; four officials; sessional assistance as required.

Mr. BELAND: In this branch there must be quite an important departure from the last classification. I see there will be only one Chief of the Journals, whereas previously we had a Chief of Journals for the English section and a Chief of Journals for the French section. This appears to be a very important departure, and I should like to have an expression of opinion from His Honour the Speaker on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: As pointed out by the hon. member, there is a departure from the previous arrangement, for an obvious reason. You cannot have two Journals for the House of Commons. Though you may have one Journal published in two languages, there can in the nature of things be but one Journal for the House of Commons. As a matter of actual practice, the Journal is entered up in English day by day by the Clerk at the Table, and the French