

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

March 21, 1934.

The select special committee on the Civil Service Act met at 11 a.m., Mr. J. Earl Lawson presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Just before the conclusion of the last sitting, gentlemen, some member of the committee intimated that he would like to have witnesses brought here to outline where the translators were located, their numbers and so forth. I am not sure whether one of these gentlemen that we asked to come is a witness for that purpose or not, but it occurred to me after the committee adjourned that I could probably get a very full and complete statement of the situation from Mr. Bland of the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. CHEVRIER: As to what?

The CHAIRMAN: What translators were employed, in what departments they were located what their salaries were and so forth. So I asked Mr. Bland if he would make out such a statement and he did. If it meets with the approval of the committee that later on you would like to have Mr. Bland come and give us that as a sort of foundation on which we might build or start, I will have him do so.

Mr. CHEVRIER: You have that statement here?

The CHAIRMAN: It was delivered to me last night or early this morning. I have not looked at it yet. There should be copies made for each member of the committee; and I will have Mr. Bland come in some time during the morning and tell us about it.

Mr. POULIOT: Are the salaries mentioned?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. POULIOT: And the branches in which they are located?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; it gives the number of translators, who they are and all about them. Now, I think we were to have Mr. Paul de Martigny this morning. Is Mr. de Martigny here?

Mr. DE MARTIGNY called.

Mr. POULIOT: With the permission of the members of the committee, I should like to make this observation before Mr. de Martigny gives his evidence. I should like to refer to an article which appears in the newspaper L'Illustration, written by Edgar Boutet, who is secretary to an executive in the Post Office department. I mentioned the matter in the house. It seems that any newspaperman whether he belongs to the civil service or not, is free to discuss the stand of the members here; but I understand that no man is allowed to falsify our statements or what we say here.

The CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Pouliot.

Mr. POULIOT: What I have to complain about is an article which appeared in L'Illustration, Montreal, in which the stand taken by Mr. Lapointe, Mr. Mercier and myself is falsified or given an erroneous interpretation.