

ment which has been put forward in that respect.

Reference has been made, also to the fact that this statute is to be regarded as retro-active. I could not come to Parliament before Parliament was in session for the purpose of having this legislation enacted. When Parliament did assemble we advanced the date of the session for the reason that I had to leave on a very important mission for Great Britain. There was not time or opportunity to bring the resolution down at that time, but as soon as I returned in May last I had it placed on the Order paper. Under the circumstances it seems to me that the course which I took is not susceptible of the slightest criticism. I think, therefore, that the Bill is entitled to the support and approval of hon. member in this House, and that, in the conditions under which it is presented, there ought to be no criticism of the principle embodied in it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Can my hon. friend give the dates of the respective appointments and the amounts of the emoluments?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The emoluments are at the rate of \$7,000 a year in the one case and \$5,000 a year in the other.

Mr. LEMIEUX: For how many years in the case of Sir George Perley?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Since he took office. In the case of the Minister of the Overseas Military Forces, from the 31st day of October, 1916; in the case of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Militia and Defence, from the 19th day of July, 1916; in the case of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, from the 21st day of October, 1916. These were the dates upon which these gentlemen were sworn into office.

Motion agreed to, on division, and Bill read the second time.

The House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

On section 1—Appointment of Minister of Overseas Military Forces.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Section 1 will stand until we see the report of the Parliamentary Counsel as to the use of the words "minister of the Crown."

Section stands.

On section 2—Appointment of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: This section also will stand, for the same reason.

Section stands.

On section 3—Salaries.

Mr. PROULX: The Prime Minister has said that the under-secretaries would not get the salary of the heads of departments. The under-secretary, however, gets sessional indemnity besides the salary here set forth.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes.

Mr. PROULX: Evidently that was not taken into consideration.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Oh, yes, we took that into consideration.

Mr. PROULX: Then the amount of remuneration is more than the salary of the heads of the departments.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: For the performance of official duties, it is the same.

Mr. PROULX: If the two are added together, the amount of remuneration is \$2,500 more than the salary of the heads of the department.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The \$2,500 is supposed to be an indemnity, not a salary.

Mr. MACDONALD: Is there to be any provision for the salaries of persons who may be necessary in connection with the organization of the ministry overseas? Is it intended to provide for any statutory officials to act in conjunction with the minister?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I understand that my hon. friend refers, for instance, to a deputy minister. There is a deputy minister; Colonel Walter Gow, of Toronto, is appointed to that office. That is authorized by Order in Council. The ordinance which created this office permits the Minister of Overseas Service to make recommendation to the Governor in Council for the appointment of any persons necessary for the organization of his department. I am not aware at the moment of any new official in important position except Col. Walter Gow, Colonel McRae who was Quartermaster General, General Foster, who was head of the Army Medical Service, Colonel Thacker who was Adjutant General, and Colonel Ross of Montreal, who was made Paymaster General, were all acting at the time Sir George Perley was appointed.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Colonel Thacker was not appointed at the time Sir George Perley was appointed.