

Mr. VENIOT: Why did not the translator of the Senate translate the speech in the first instance?

Mr. CAHAN: That is what he did, possibly.

Mr. VENIOT: Why did he correct his own translation afterwards?

Mr. CAHAN: Because he found it so imperfect, probably.

Mr. VENIOT: Which goes to show that it is not centralization which is needed, but specialization in a particular work, to bring about the economy to which the Secretary of State has referred.

Mr. CAHAN: I would suggest that proper supervision is needed.

Mr. VENIOT: I did not interrupt the Secretary of State when he was speaking, and I hope he will not do so with me.

Mr. CAHAN: The hon. member asked a question.

Mr. VENIOT: The minister is not answering any questions just now, when he is interrupting. He has no right to do that. In these few rambling remarks I will not be interrupted by the Secretary of State except when I ask him a question which, if he wishes, he may answer. He may do that.

As I have said, if anything was needed to prove that specialization is required, most certainly the Secretary of State furnished an example to the house this afternoon when he said he had to go outside the departmental translators to get someone to translate a paper in connection with the St. Lawrence waterways treaty between Canada and the United States. If we had the system of specialization carried to a greater degree than it is to-day, there would have been no need for the Secretary of State to go outside for special men to do that translation. Let me point out to the Secretary of State, and I know whereof I speak because in my public career I have had considerable to do with translators, interpreters, and so forth, that it is one thing to be able to get a man to translate a speech, and it is an entirely different thing to get a man to translate technical subjects. A speech can only be well translated from English into French or from French into English by one individual. You cannot distribute the speech over a period of hours and to a number of different translators, giving one man fifteen pages of the speech to translate and another the following fifteen; the chances are that if you do it in that way the trans-

[Mr. Cahan.]

lation made by the second translator is not going to fit in with the idiom of the language used by the first. There you have the reason for specialization for efficient translation.

Take another case. Take a translator in the Department of National Health and place him in the centralized bureau which the Secretary of State wishes to establish. The Department of National Health has some medical subject to be translated and passes it over to the bureau. It is likely to be handed to the first translator who is idle, and that translator, not having any technical knowledge of medicine, cannot possibly do justice to his subject. Let me further point out, and I am sure that hon. gentlemen of the medical profession will agree with me, especially the French medical gentlemen in this house, that when you undertake to translate English medical subjects into French you very soon find that the technical expressions used in the one language do not correspond with the technical expressions used in the other. There is an entire difference between the technical expressions used in the English study of medicine and the technical expressions used in the French study of medicine. That again shows the necessity for specialization.

Or take the engineering branch of the Department of Public Works or of the Department of Railways. Take your translators out of those departments and place them in this centralized bureau, and what will you find? You will not have a man to do your technical translation of engineering subjects correctly unless you get hold of the very man who has been almost brought up in that particular department and has been accustomed to handling the translation of that technical work. There is another reason why specialization should be encouraged rather than centralization.

I also wish to refer to some of the remarks which the hon. Secretary of State made. He said that if one would read the bill, and he rather threw a slur at the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. St-Pere) because he had not studied the bill, he would find that the translators coming into the central bureau would be protected in the matter of promotion. I would point out to the Secretary of State that the only clause of this bill which touches on the question of these translators coming under the Civil Service Act is clause 4, at the end of which I read that these men "may be transferred to the bureau as herein provided, and such officers and employees shall thereafter be subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Act." There is not a line