

amendments before us and we cannot very intelligently discuss their nature and effect. The minister has them, but we have not.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will find the amendments set forth in the Votes and Proceedings of the 19th June.

Mr. ROWELL: I have consulted the Parliamentary Counsel and I am advised that the usual form is to move concurrence in such amendment as the Government thinks should be concurred in, and non-concurrence in the other. I have had the resolution drawn by the Parliamentary Counsel in order that it might be in the proper form.

Mr. LUCIEN CANNON (Dorchester): As my hon. friend (Mr. Trahan) has remarked, the Senate amendment regarding legal holidays will have the effect of placing civil servants of the Catholic religion in a very difficult position. Since Confederation, and even before that, a certain number of days have been observed in Canada as general holidays. The Senate by its amendment proposes that henceforth certain days which are days of observance for the members of the Catholic Church shall no longer be holidays in the Civil Service. Civil servants of the Catholic faith will be in this position if this amendment is concurred in: According to the rules of the Church they will not be able to work on that day because it is a day of what we call religious obligation, which is considered practically as a Sunday, and on Sundays Catholics cannot work. On the other hand, being civil servants they will have to obey the regulations governing civil servants and will have to work on these days. I do not think it is fair for any government or for the Civil Service Commission to place them in such an awkward position. Their religious principles and religious convictions are to be respected, and I have no doubt it will be sufficient to call the attention of the minister to this fact to have him amend his resolution and move non-concurrence in the Senate amendment respecting holidays.

As to the other amendment, taking away from the Civil Service Commission jurisdiction over the Senate employees, I have very little to say. The minister says that the electorate of Canada have on several occasions approved of the policy of the present Government on Civil Service reform. I do not think that question was very much discussed at the last election, and as to the previous election of 1911, I do not think the party to which the minister now belongs

[Mr. Cannon.]

upheld very much the Civil Service Commission. I have heard very strong supporters of the Government on the other side of the House attack the policy of this Government on Civil Service reform. I have heard the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Fripp), for instance, say that the commission has given very little satisfaction. Would it be a good thing for the Civil Service to be removed from the jurisdiction of the Commission? Certainly there is not as much satisfaction among civil servants as there might be. Is it because they are under the Civil Service Commission? I do not know. Would the lot of the Senate officials be bettered if they came directly under the jurisdiction of the Senate? It is an experiment that might be worth while trying. But I am not so much interested in this amendment as in the other one regarding legal holidays. I think that amendment is absolutely unfair and absolutely unjust to the civil servants who belong to the Catholic church, and I trust that the House will not concur in it.

Mr. H. A. MACKIE (East Edmonton): So far as the Roman Catholic Church is concerned, it is quite possible for a Roman Catholic on the days of obligation to attend divine service in the early morning, and perform his regular duties afterwards. That practice has often been urged in the Catholic Church. But I would draw this point to the attention of the House and particularly of the Government. While it is possible on these feasts of obligation for Roman Catholics to attend to their religious duties in the early morning, it seems to me that at a time like this, when there is a great deal of dissatisfaction all over the country, we should not do anything to create more dissatisfaction in a whole province of this Dominion by taking action that will lead the people of that province to believe that this Government is particularly anxious to deprive them of their religious liberty. I regret very much that this matter has come up in that form. I do not think the Senate amendment regarding legal holidays in the Civil Service should be concurred in, not because the members of the Roman Catholic Church cannot practise their religion on these feasts of obligation, but because of the general opinion it would create that the Government was infringing on their rights. I trust that the Government will refrain from any such action that will make for the unity of Canada rather than the disruption of our national life.