

Mr. BRACKEN: The hon. member has agreed to change his amendment to one which will increase the number of members on the commission from fifteen to nineteen. I shall read the amendment I had proposed, in order that hon. members may consider it. This amendment would not have increased the number from fifteen to nineteen. It would read as follows:

That clause 3, section 2, be amended by striking out the word "thirteen" in the first line thereof and substituting therefor "four";

That clause 2 subsection 5 be amended to read as follows:

"One member shall be appointed by the governor in council for each of the provinces of Canada to hold office during pleasure for such period not exceeding five years as the governor in council may decide."

The only difference in substance between this amendment and the one already suggested is that this would provide for fifteen members as already planned, instead of nineteen as now proposed. I present that suggestion for the consideration of the committee.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That possibility had been discussed. But there are already on the commission nine gentlemen who have served with devotion and distinction. This would have required eliminating some of them, and it was felt it would be ungracious and a poor recognition of the devoted service they have already given if any of them were asked to retire before the expiration of their term of office.

Mr. BRACKEN: And therefore we have to go to the expense of paying nineteen instead of fifteen.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: They serve without remuneration.

Mr. BRACKEN: Oh well; they do not serve without cost to the state. They serve without personal reward, but there are all the expenses which must be considered.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Before we call it one o'clock may I point out that section 2 was not carried? I believe it was the wish of the committee that that section be carried. We now have an amendment to section 3.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): We are on section 2.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): It is clause 3 that hon. members are speaking to.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Section 3 of the original act, but clause 2 of the bill.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

[Mr. Bracken.]

The committee resumed at three o'clock.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): When the committee rose at one o'clock there was an amendment before the chair moved by the hon. member for Fraser Valley, and later we had an amendment moved by the leader of the opposition.

Mr. BRACKEN: Mr. Chairman, I offered that only as a suggestion for the consideration of the committee.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Perhaps I had better read what the suggestion of the leader of the opposition was. It was as follows:

That clause 3, section 2, be amended by striking out the word "thirteen" in the first line thereof and substituting therefor "four";

That clause 2, subsection 5, be amended to read as follows:

"One member shall be appointed by the governor in council for each of the provinces of Canada to hold office during pleasure for such period not exceeding five years."

Is there any further discussion before I put the amendment moved by the hon. member for Fraser Valley, which reads:

(1) That clause 3 be amended by the deletion of the word "fifteen" in paragraph (1) and the substitution of the word "nineteen" therefor;

(2) By the deletion of the word "thirteen" in paragraph (2) and the substitution of the word "seventeen" therefor;

(3) By the deletion of all the words in paragraph (5) after the word "in" in line two and the substitution of the words "each of the nine provinces of Canada" therefor.

Mr. BRACKEN: The effect of the amendment is to increase the total number of members of the commission from fifteen to nineteen so as to make it possible to have a representative from each province. The effect of my suggestion would be to make it possible to have a representative from each province on the commission without increasing its numbers. The minister has indicated that he prefers the larger number because certain members now on the commission have given good service and out of respect to them he does not wish to dispense with their services. I think I shall have to say that I do not favour the policy of still further increasing the membership of the commission. We have commissions all over this country doing much bigger jobs than this with a much smaller membership than nineteen. I can respect the minister's reason for agreeing to the larger number, but it does not appeal to me as a business proposition.

Mr. REID: Various small matters of routine will have to be attended to by the com-