

under the vocational branch of that institution.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at three o'clock.

THE SENATE.

Tuesday, February 6, 1917.

The Senate met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK inquired of the Government:

1. When did the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs complete its work?

2. Has the final report been made to the Dominion Government?

3. If so, has this report been submitted to the Provincial Government of British Columbia?

4. Has the Dominion Government considered making any alteration in the policy previously announced, of settling the question of the adoption of the report by the governments before hearing any representations that the Indian tribes interested may wish to make in their own behalf.

5. At what date did the members of the Royal Commission and the Secretary, cease to draw their remuneration?

6. What has been the cost of the Royal Commission to date?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED:

1. On 30th June, 1916.

2. Yes.

3. Yes.

4. No.

5. The commissioners ceased to draw salaries on the 30th June, 1916; the secretary on the 30th October, 1916.

6. The total cost to date, \$315,604.36, of which half is borne by the province.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE SENATE.

INQUIRY AND DISCUSSION.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN inquired of the Government:

1. Is it the intention or the policy of the Government during the war extension of time, unanimously and gratuitously, granted to it by Parliament, to continue to fill all Liberal vacancies in the membership of the Senate of Canada with supporters of the Conservative party, irrespective of the

rights, interests and claims of His Majesty's Loyal Liberal Opposition in the Upper House of Parliament, and of the rights, interests and claims of His Majesty's Loyal Liberal subjects throughout the Dominion of Canada, and particularly of those Liberals who are overseas fighting for and defending the common cause of the Allies?

2. If such be the intention and the policy of the Government does it, or can it, expect the undivided support of Parliament and the people of Canada in regard to its party or political ends, over administrative measures?

3. Is the Government prepared, in contradistinction and in contravention of the agreement which obtains in the House of Commons regarding representation in that House to set aside similar conditions regarding the representation in the Upper House of Parliament?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: As this is purely a matter of policy, the Government does not feel called upon to answer this question.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I know that there can be no debate on a question put and an answer given; but, as there is nothing else on the Order Paper for to-day, I would ask the leave of the Senate to say a few words on this question. If the House is unanimous in granting permission I will say a few words now.

Some hon. SENATORS: Go on.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Senate of Canada is in a constant state of evolution. As senators we are immortals, because our number remains the same; but our names change. I rise to speak more particularly for the information of those members who are not absolutely au fait of what has taken place in this Chamber during the last fifteen years. Since I entered this Chamber in 1898, we have had quite a number of debates—academic debates, if you will—on the constitution of the Senate and on various suggestions of reforms to make it more democratic or representative, and more useful as one of the chambers of Parliament.

The question which the honourable gentleman from Victoria (Hon. Mr. Cloran) put on the Order Paper some days ago recalled to my mind some suggestions which I made to the Senate about ten years ago, during a debate in which members on both sides of the House expressed their views as to the proper constitution of the Senate. I recognized then that the Fathers of Confederation had had in view the constitution of a second Chamber which would act as a moderator on hasty legislation, a body which would be in general sympathy with the administration of the day, but would be composed of independent men who would exercise their own judgment in passing