

Minutes such as "My Lords read" and "Read again."

The number of the Junior Lords has varied from time to time. During the eighteenth century there were generally four; two Irish Lords were added in 1817, but in 1827 the total number was five, and in 1830 four. The normal number was reduced in 1849 from four to three. Since 1851 they have been paid £1,000 a year each, except for short periods in 1868-9 and 1873-4, when the Lord next to the Chancellor of the Exchequer was given a special position as Third Lord (with a view to his assisting in the heavy duties of the Financial Secretary) with a special salary of £2,000 in the one case and £1,500 in the other. Unpaid Lords have been appointed from time to time. There are at present five Junior Lords, of whom two are unpaid. Prior to 1711 all the Lords were nominated by the Sovereign himself, and the First Lord was only *primus inter pares*, but since that year the First Lord has nominated the rest of the Board.

The Junior Lords take little part in the ordinary Treasury business. They are, however, called upon to sign Treasury Warrants and other instruments requiring the signature of two members of the Board, and they have sometimes in the past undertaken departmental inquiries or a particular branch of business (one of them, for instance, used to deal with papers relating to superannuation). Their main work is in Parliament, where they act as assistant whips: Mr. Canning used to say that the duties of a Junior Lord were "to make a House, keep a House, and cheer the Minister."