

result in the very near future will be satisfactory to the people I represent, the people of Kootenay West, and will cause the great majority of Doukhobors, who wish to live according to Canadian law and Canadian standards, to say in their usual way: Slava Bohu.

Item agreed to.

Patent and Copyright office—

364. Administration division, \$35,630.

Mr. RICHARD (Ottawa East): I wish to call the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that there is room for improvement in the patent office system at the present time. Hon. members know that the patent office is a revenue-producing department, but it should not be so, when that involves the risk of providing fewer facilities to the public. Patent applications have been lagging for a great number of years owing to understaffing and lack of facilities. I am not going to go into all the details. An investigation was made some years ago and a report was prepared by Mr. Ralston of Montreal in 1940. It is a very good one, and I suggest that it be implemented at this time. No doubt the reason it was not implemented was the fact that we were at war.

The first need of the patent office is, of course, proper housing facilities. The office is now distributed in three buildings, and that makes it difficult for coordination and also for those who practise before the patent office. The second difficulty is lack of staff. A great number of examiners have died and others are just about at the retiring age. In view of the fact that the Patent Act is a highly specialized act, the patent office should as soon as possible acquire a great number of assistant examiners, who should be trained for this work. I am afraid I am only repeating a complaint which has reached the patent office from time to time, that patent applications take too long to be examined.

Another thing I would bring to the attention of the Secretary of State in a few words is lack of facilities for those who practise before the patent office. We have not a decent search room; we have not a library containing patents of foreign countries readily available for inspection. Then, of course, above all that there is the question of obtaining prior Canadian patents. As hon. members no doubt know, Canadian patents are not printed. Various systems might be considered. They have all been found to be expensive, but this government will sooner or later have to realize that an initial capital expenditure must be made to create these facilities for the benefit of the public. I urge the Secretary of State, if at

all possible, to appoint a committee at the next session to look into the Patent Act, both as to legislation and also as to facilities within the patent office. Now that the war is over, we shall no doubt have a greater number of inventions both from foreign countries and from people at home, and no doubt our patents will be only as good as the facilities of the office will permit.

As a suggestion, I would say that the income of the patent office could be increased by raising the fees. Our fees are at present low as compared with those of other countries, \$15 for filing and \$20 for the final fee. In most other countries the fee is over \$30. If our fees were raised to that level the income of the patent office could be almost doubled and proper facilities provided and better patents obtained.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): May I ask a question about the item dealing with translations, as to why so large an amount is shown for temporary assistance, and whether it is really temporary or not? Is it an emergency situation which will disappear?

Hon. PAUL MARTIN (Secretary of State): The reason is that a large number of the male employees are temporary, and cannot be made permanent because of the veterans' preference provision.

We are now dealing with item 364. The hon. member for Ottawa East, who has given a great deal of thought to this matter and who, in the practice of his profession, is a patent solicitor, has made a number of suggestions which I feel have considerable merit. As he has said, there is much to be done by way of stream-lining the patent office at the present time. If there is some tardiness—and there is—in the disposition of applications, this is largely due to the fact that the applications are almost thirty-eight per cent more now than they were in the immediate year preceding the war. However, the closest study is being made of the problem, both with a view to trying to increase the staff of examiners and others, and to see if we cannot accommodate the great demand being made upon the patent office.

Not a little of our problem, as the hon. member has said, has to do with the fact that the patent division is handicapped by lack of space. The Minister of Public Works is engaged in trying to remedy that situation. I may say that every one of the suggestions made by the hon. member for Ottawa East, a number of which he has discussed with me privately over the last few months is, as he knows, being given serious consideration. And