

# Industrial Review From Many Sources

## LABOR ESTIMATES

(Continued from Page 1.)

**\$720 Not Living Wage.**  
Mr. Murdoch observed that he would go no further than to express the opinion that a man could not support a family on \$720 a year. He understood that some returned soldiers had recently applied on the ground that they were required to do this. As far as knowing the work of his staff, the minister said Sir Henry flattered him. He had not been able to get a line on what his individual employees were doing. He repeated that the Civil Service Commission had laid down the salary scale and that he had nothing to do with it.

**Minister's Responsibility.**  
Mr. Hon. Arthur Meighen disagreed with the minister as to his responsibility in the matter of salaries. It was true that the Civil Service Commission laid down a scale of salaries, but the minister in charge of the department was responsible for asking the house to vote for the money. If the house decided that any salary should be reduced, the will of the house prevailed over that of the Civil Service Commission. No civil servant was entitled to any salary until parliament passed on it.

**A Serious Eviction.**  
T. W. Bird Progressive, Nelson, thought it was a serious thing when a minister of the crown could take refuge behind the Civil Service Act.

**Could Cut Salaries.**  
Mr. Meighen rejoined that if the minister asked to take the responsibility and parliament approved he could cut 20 per cent. from all the salaries in his department.

**Mr. Murdoch asked the opposition leader to supply one concrete case of which salary recommendations of the Civil Service Commission had been turned down. "Why pick on me?" he queried.**

No government ever could evade responsibility—never until the present government came into power," asserted Mr. Meighen. The prime minister said that when the present government came into office it found the civil service positions classified and with regular salaries approved by the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Murdoch had refused to accept responsibility for changing this. The minister of labor was asking only for the same vote as was granted in previous years plus the statutory increases.

**Alleges Ignorance.**  
Mr. Meighen replied that the minister of labor could take the responsibility of recommending a salary increase in his department if he wanted to. Before the election, Liberals seemed to know a great deal more about estimates than they know at the present time. If they were so ignorant after three months of office, how ignorant would they be a year from now, now, he asked.

**The Lord Lovell's cheerful giver and a good loser," contributed Hon. George P. Graham.**  
As the Civil Service Act was in force, argued Mr. Graham, a minister could not refuse to allow the salary increases recommended by it without ignoring the spirit of the act.

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discussing which has any relation to this letter or statement," he asked. The deputy speaker: "We are discussing the general policy of the labor department, particularly in respect to the civil service commission."

**Mr. Murdoch's Church Talk.**  
The minister of labor should stay in his office instead of travelling around the country. If he would do this it would be more in the best interests of Canada. Mr. Church proceeded to read an account of the address which Mr. Murdoch gave in a Toronto Methodist church. Sentences selected by Mr. Church delighted the house. Mr. Murdoch himself joining in the laughter. Reading from the newspaper clipping, Mr. Church quoted: "He spoke in a slow and measured tone, which, Mr. Church added, was more than he did in the house. Another quotation was that 200,000 men were out of work. "Why shouldn't there be, with his department the way it is today?" Mr. Church asked.

**A Point of Order.**  
A. R. McMaster, Liberal, Brome, rose to a point of order and declared that when estimates were under discussion, statements must be confined to the position of the late government. The reading of long documents was wasting the time of 235 men.

**Not Much Assistance.**  
"Reading that letter will help the labor difficulties of this country a lot," declared Mr. Church, who added that Mr. Murdoch was wasting the time of the house.

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**Why the Increases?**  
Hon. H. H. Stevens, Conservative Vancouver Center, said the minister of labor had informed the House on a previous occasion that he proposed to reduce his staff by thirty, the

reduction to take place yesterday, the last day of the fiscal year. In view of this statement, Mr. Stevens failed to see why there should be an increase of twenty-three odd thousands in the estimates. Considering that this increase had not been properly accounted for, he moved an amendment that, in view of the minister's statement that thirty employees were to be discharged on this day, the amount of the labor department civil government estimate be reduced to \$171,640, plus \$35,000 contingencies, giving the same amount as last year. The amount asked for this year was \$195,000, plus \$35,000 contingencies.

**Are Not in Vote.**  
Mr. Murdoch explained that the thirty employees referred to by him were temporary employees with whom the vote had nothing to do. He declared that the motion made by Mr. Stevens heralded a broadcast to the world and Canadian labor that the Conservative opposition were doing everything to stultify the labor department in accomplishing things that labor desired to have done on its behalf.

**Reindeers Imported Into North Canada.**  
The value of the reindeer to the native inhabitants of Labrador and Northern Canada generally has led to efforts again being made to build up herds of these animals in the regions referred to. The Hudson's Bay Company has taken hold of the enterprise and recently landed 628 reindeer, most of them at Bathurst. Land some months ago. Because reindeer, in common with other animals, are liable to certain diseases and parasitic infestations, the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, through the Health of Animals Branch, has seen to it that the imported stock included only healthy specimens. The inspection of the animals was made by Dr. E. A. Watson, Chief Animal Pathologist, who was sent to Norway to examine the shipment before embarkation.

**Some years ago importations were made by Dr. Grenfell in connection with his mission work in the Labrador. The herd prospered well while under the care of Lapp herders, but after the Lapps returned to their native land the animals became scattered and lost. Most of the 628 reindeer comprising the present shipment have been landed in good condition, and it is hoped that a beginning has been made in establishing a reindeer industry which may prove of great value to Canada.**

**Do you think you can support my daughter in the style to which she has been accustomed?" "I don't know, sir, but I can certainly save you 20 per cent. of her present cost to you," Boston Transcript.**

**Madam, since you are looking at things for your living room and for your bonfire, could I show you one of our new electric fans?" "Thank you, no. There's nobody at our house who could play on it anyway," Post.**

**Do you always advise your nearsighted patients to have a constant companion?" "Alas!—Always. The companion immediately becomes another nearsighted patient," Houston Post.**

**Isn't it awfully cold at nights these days?" "Yes, I have so many blankets on my bed that I have to have a bookmaker to see where to get in," London Mail.**

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