

Supply—National Defence

M. Civilian staffs for works engineers and land services.

N. Civilians attached to the provost corps. I am asking the minister to give under these heads the number of civilians employed, the nature of the employment such as is given in the estimates of other departments of government, and the total pay.

Mr. Claxton: The hon. member is asking about the army and we are still under administration. I do not think it would be a bad thing if every now and then we conformed with the arrangement arrived at in this committee. The hon. member knows something about the armed forces, and I think he realizes that he has chosen an arrangement which could not be arrived at and told to the committee without going into individual files. It does not happen to conform to the arrangement of the estimates as laid down by the comptroller of the treasury and the Auditor General. Our estimates are arranged in exactly the same way as those of other government departments and in accordance with the directions of the Auditor General and the recommendations of the committee on public accounts.

The hon. member is asking about headquarters, regimental establishments, recruiting, welfare, hospital, medical establishments, military schools, educational establishments, army service corps, veterinary corps—I do not think we have one any more—post office, railways, inland transport and so on. I suggest that the easiest way for us to proceed is to take up the matters which are before us in the order in which they are laid out. If I cannot answer any questions on that basis then I shall get the answers. If it is really important for the information of this committee and the country that we should rearrange our accounts, then we will go back to the Auditor General and the comptroller of the treasury and see how we can do it. Until then I am subject to your direction.

The Deputy Chairman: May I ask the minister if it is his contention that the question asked by the leader of the opposition should have been asked under "civilian salaries and wages", of the heading "Army"?

Mr. Drew: I am asking it under civilian salaries and wages. I have asked the question in regard to the army and I will ask the same question in regard to the navy and in regard to the air force, all of which comes under administration and all of which I state definitely comes under civilian salaries and wages. We are not able to tell at what point the division comes, and surely this would be the place where we could best get that information.

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Claxton: The item we are dealing with is administration and I have already given the break-down of the allocation of civilian salaries under that item. I do not know what more I can do to answer the hon. member under that item. Then if he wants to ask a similar question under each successive service I will be glad to give the same information.

Mr. Drew: I assure the minister that I shall ask the same question. I had thought it might be more convenient to bring them all together at this time, but if the minister prefers it otherwise then I shall certainly ask that question at each point. If the minister does not think the headings I have suggested are the most appropriate, then I simply suggest that for the purposes of convenience he adopt headings more satisfactory to himself. My only concern is that they be headings which adequately embrace the different categories of civilians employed in that way.

Mr. Claxton: We are in complete agreement on that.

Mr. Pearkes: I think it would help the committee if we had it quite clear that this amount is for civilians employed at headquarters here in Ottawa.

Mr. Claxton: And the civil defence and inspection services right across the country. As to headquarters, it is only that part of the civilian staff applicable to headquarters itself. As we look through the items later it will be found that there are civilian salaries under navy, army and air force, and they are not included here. These are the civil employees applicable to headquarters, with a total of \$3,489,842 which I gave in answer to an earlier question. That includes under headquarters the civilian employees of the judge advocate general, public relations, inspection services and civil defence co-ordinator, all which report to headquarters.

Mr. Pearkes: Would that include the civilians employed on the clerical staff at naval headquarters?

Mr. Claxton: Not those under navy, army or air force; only those under the department, at headquarters itself.

Mr. McLure: I should like to ask a question which is not so intricate as some that have been asked, but concerning a matter on which I should like some information. I have hunted through the details of the estimates and cannot find what I want. The question arises out of the answer to a question I asked a year ago with regard to the naval barracks and armouries being built in my province, at Charlottetown.