

we are all pleased to see reductions made but this is a very important service and I understand that the duties of this department are increasing all the time.

Hon. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): A substantial part of the reduction is due to the letting out of the staff engaged for the census.

Mr. BRADETTE: How many of that staff have been retained in the service?

Mr. STEVENS: There were 292 still in the service last year but I think a further reduction is to be made this month and some of that number will not be kept on for the coming year.

Mr. BRADETTE: Will that whole staff be eventually abolished or will some of them be retained in the service?

Mr. STEVENS: By the time the supplementary estimates are brought down I shall know definitely. It is possible that due to the growth of the work it may be thought desirable to retain the services of some of those who have received special training in census work during the past three years. I can give no decision to-day on this matter but I shall be able to make a definite statement before the end of the session.

Mr. CAHAN: I notice that certain items of public printing and stationery were not dealt with, and I ask my hon. friend if he would permit these to be taken up at this time. I do not think there will be any discussion thereon.

Mr. STEVENS: I would have to move that this item stands.

Item stands.

Public Printing and Stationery—printing, binding, et cetera, the annual statutes, \$8,500.

Mr. CAHAN: The reduction of \$1,500 in this vote has been made possible by a decrease in the cost of paper.

Mr. VENIOT: As a matter of economy, has the minister given any consideration to the quality of the paper used for envelopes and correspondence?

Mr. CAHAN: A thorough research has been made in this regard. Certain suggestions have been made to the departments with regard to future orderings of supplies. If these are carried out it is expected a considerable saving will be made.

Mr. VENIOT: I believe it would save considerably. There is another matter to which I

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

would direct attention, that is, the poor sticking qualities of the envelopes with which we are supplied. Take the six or seven inch envelopes. It is practically impossible to get them to stick without the use of mucilage. I do not think members should be expected to send out correspondence in an envelope with the flap in such a condition that anyone could open it.

Mr. CAHAN: I shall make special representations to the department as to this matter.

Mr. POULIOT: I am in favour of economy in every branch of the service but I think the members should be allowed sufficient paper for their parliamentary duties. I do not see any economy in the fact that a member is allowed only two or three pads of paper at a time. He is forced to send out a messenger every time he needs pins, pencils or envelopes. More money is spent on the messenger than would cover the cost of the stationery. These matters should be dealt with from a common sense point of view and a member should not be forced to send for a messenger every time he needs a pad or envelope. I do not blame the minister for this, but I think some attention should be paid to the convenience of the members of this house.

There is another matter to which I should like to refer, the bound editions of Hansard. There is economy in that respect, I am told. Now, since I have been a member of this house, for ten years I have been receiving two bound sets of Hansard, one in French and one in English. I keep one at home and one here, and I keep it religiously. This year however on account of economy the clerk has been refusing to let me have an English bound set of Hansard of last year. I do not understand that. There would be greater economy if he did not pay \$480 for a carpet without the authorization of the Speaker or the sergeant at arms, though he will not allow members to have bound sets of Hansard. Economy should be practised and not preached; there should be example and not mere words. We are not children here, and we are not to be bossed by any one of our servants; and if he thinks fit to buy an expensive rug for \$480, a superior quality rug, it is a real scandal, and the only thing to do is to tell him to get out if he has done it without authorization. According to the information I have received from the proper officials he was not authorized to buy that expensive rug for \$480, when I cannot get a bound set of statutes I need for my parliamentary work.