

amination, or have they passed any examination at all?

Mr. GRAHAM. In so far as the technical officers are concerned my hon. friend has explained that himself.

Mr. SPROULE. We will leave that out of the question.

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend made quite a lengthy argument on that but he answered himself. They could not be employed under the Civil Service Act at the salary which it is necessary to pay them. As to the others, they are extra clerks and there is no provision made in the Civil Service Act for such clerks.

Mr. SPROULE. Why? Because I presume they do not pass the examination.

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend is wrong. I know that quite a number have passed the civil service examination, and I may say that I have had scarcely any appointments in my department, but when I do make one I give the preference to the person who has passed the civil service examination.

Mr. SPROULE. If they have passed the civil service examination and if they are needed from year to year why are they not put on the permanent list? If they were eligible at the time, if they had passed the examination and were needed in the department they should be put on the permanent list and then we would know how many employees were to be provided for.

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend's question is perfectly fair and worthy of consideration. If they were to be put on we would have to create a larger number of permanent clerkships in order to have clerkships to appoint them to. My own opinion coincides to a large extent with that of the hon. gentleman, that is that if these people are to be kept on permanently we ought to establish more permanent clerkships and appoint these persons to them. Were it not for the fact that the Civil Service Bill is likely to be introduced I would propose to do that another year. When we have to have these clerks and when we know that they have to be permanent we should make them permanent. I agree with my hon. friend that we ought to try to find out how many permanent clerkships there ought to be in the department and appoint the clerks permanently. Of course circumstances will always arise when you will have to have additional clerks.

To pay expenses in connection with reference to cases before the Railway Commission, \$10,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. I can only find in the Auditor General's Report one item of expenditure under this head last year, which is a payment of \$1,132.35 to Mr. W. S. Buell.

Mr. GRAHAM. Up to the 30th September, 1907, we have expended \$8,723.90. There were payments to Mr. Buell, to Mr. Richardson, to Mr. Owens for reporting and to Macdonald & Shepley, and so on.

Mr. J. D. REID. How much did Macdonald & Shepley get?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Shepley was chief counsel, and Macdonald & Shepley got \$2,845.21. Mr. Buell got \$1,132.35; Mr. James Richardson got \$991.40; Mr. Owens, \$396.90; stationery, \$1,074. I need not read them all.

Mr. J. D. REID. Of course this vote cannot be used for anything else.

Mr. GRAHAM. No.

Mr. MONK. Did the minister have time to find out the charges of Mr. Boyer for investigation into the Soulanges canal?

Mr. GRAHAM. I have not been able to go to my department since.

Mr. BERGERON. This is a very serious matter and the minister should not view it lightly. The superintendent of that canal has been accused of very grave irregularities.

Mr. GRAHAM. It was Mr. Sauvé the overseer.

Mr. BERGERON. He is called the superintendent, but at all events Mr. Sauvé who is in charge of the canal has been accused of serious irregularities, not to speak of other matters which might be looked upon as political in their nature. There is very great dissatisfaction on the canal, and I can assure the minister that he should not dismiss the matter lightly.

Mr. GRAHAM. I am not dismissing it at all. I did not bring down the report this morning because it is customary not to place a report of that kind on the table until the minister is prepared to say what he is going to do about it, and I have not had time to digest it yet. I will bring it down before the canal items are passed.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This item is curiously worded; to what particular use is it applied?

Mr. GRAHAM. It is for legal fees, stenographers' fees, stationery and so on.

Mr. SPROULE. Why do you not include it in the vote for the expenses of the Railway Commission?

Mr. GRAHAM. Counsel is named on behalf of the people to make investigation into special matters, such as the tariffs of the express companies and the telephone companies. This vote is for the expense of these inquiries. A question was raised in the House the other day, and it is one worthy of consideration later on, though perhaps we cannot do it this year, that is,