

There is no list of names submitted. We are asking a vote to make these promotions and will after decide who are entitled to them.

Mr. FOSTER. Do you propose to make them in order of seniority?

Mr. FIELDING. The Auditor General says he cannot answer for every individual. As a rule they are made by seniority, but not necessarily so.

Mr. BERGERON. Our former Auditor General frequently complained of not having sufficient clerks to do the work properly. He wanted to change the whole office. Is our present Auditor General satisfied that he has sufficient men to do the work as it should be done?

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend is mistaken as regards our former Auditor General. He never asked for the appointment of additional clerks to his office without his request being granted. My rule has been to allow the Auditor General, who is not exactly an official of my department, but an official of parliament, a very free hand as to the number of his clerks and the promotions he should make. In every instance the clerks asked by the Auditor General are granted and their promotions made as he desires.

Mr. BERGERON. I remember well our former Auditor General complaining. However, it makes no difference if the present Auditor General is satisfied with his staff.

Mr. FIELDING. He has got all he has asked for.

Department of Finance and Treasury Board—salaries, \$66,352.50; contingencies, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act, \$14,000.

Mr. FIELDING. The contingencies are the same as last year. The increases are entirely to provide for the statutory increases which we propose to give to all who are eligible.

Mr. FOSTER. What was expended on the contingencies last year?

Mr. FIELDING. The expenditure for the last fiscal period of nine months was \$10,195.91.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no change there?

Mr. FIELDING. No.

Department of Customs—salaries, \$81,862.50; contingencies, \$7,000.

Hon. WILLIAM PATERSON (Minister of Customs). There is no change in the commissioner and assistant commissioner. In the chief clerks there is a decrease of \$462.50 owing to the promotion of Mr. Frost from first-class to the position of chief clerk. Mr. Farrow was made assistant commissioner. His salary was \$2,500. Mr. Frost was pro-

moted to his place at \$1,937.50, being \$562 decrease. The \$50 statutory increase went to the remaining two chief clerks, which makes the net decrease \$462.50.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Farrow gets the full \$3,000?

Mr. PATERSON. Yes. There is no change in the first-class clerks except the statutory increase of \$50.

Mr. FOSTER. They all get the statutory increase?

Mr. PATERSON. Yes, all who are not at the maximum. In the second-class provision is made for a statutory increase to all, twelve at \$50 each.

Mr. FOSTER. In the juniors you have four additional. What is the reason for that?

Mr. PATERSON. There is a provision made for statutory increases to all of this class who are not at the maximum. There are twenty-four at \$50 each, and two at \$12.50 each, making a total increase of \$1,225. The two who get the \$12.50 each increase get it to the 1st of July, which makes the difference. The two who only get the \$12.50, the portion to which they are entitled of the statutory increase, Mr. Ross and Mr. Rochester, will not reach the maximum until the 1st of July, 1908, and their promotion will have to be considered later. Owing to the transfer of four from the outside to the inside in the current fiscal year at less salary than estimated for in 1907-8, there was an over-estimate of \$400. There was an over-estimate in the current fiscal year of \$400 on the item of junior second-class clerks; deducting this from \$1,225 for statutory increases there is a net increase of \$825. We brought some officers from the outside. We could not bring them in at a higher rate and we have estimated higher. We also provide for four additional junior second-class clerks; one at \$1,000 and three at \$900 each, total, \$3,700. This provision for new clerks and the \$825 for statutory increases makes a total of \$4,525 under this item. I may say that these four clerks are really in the service now and are engaged in this work, but hitherto they have been paid out of the vote for the Board of Customs and we desire to bring them into the regular civil service.

Mr. FOSTER. The other vote will be decreased?

Mr. PATERSON. It should be decreased; it is not our intention to fill their places. There may however be an increase in that vote on account of other expenses.

Public Works Department, \$77,187.50.

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY (Minister of Public Works). There is a very slight change from last year, the increase being only \$575,