

but I think that was the picture. Now a corporation is to be set up which will be practically out of the control of parliament. According to the order in council setting up the corporation, no provision is made for a report to be filed in parliament. In effect, there will be no control over the corporation. Why is it necessary to set up a corporation to take over the business of the board, particularly when it is to continue for only two or three years?

Mr. MacKINNON: There are a number of reasons why it was necessary to have the powers that will be asked for in the bill to carry on the work formerly carried on by the Canadian export board. I would much prefer to go into the details of these matters when we are in committee and my officials are before me. I should like to comment upon the suggestion by the hon. member for Vancouver South that this corporation will not be as close to the department as was the Canadian export board.

Mr. GREEN: Not as close to parliament.

Mr. MacKINNON: Not as close to the department and to parliament. I think, through the department, it will be just as close to parliament as was the Canadian export board.

Mr. GREEN: How much will the activities of this corporation cost the country? Can the minister give the approximate number of employees who will be working for this crown company and state whether they will be subject to the Civil Service Act? I notice that the order in council setting up the corporation provides, just as have other measures setting up crown companies, that employees may be hired quite apart from the civil service commission. In other words, this appears to be another example of setting up a super civil service.

Mr. MacKINNON: It is impossible at this time to give details of the cost of the operations of this corporation. It is taking over the Canadian export board which now employs approximately 120 individuals. We have also secured the services of four of special experience. One or two of these have been with the Department of Munitions and Supply, at present the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, while the chief official has been secured on loan from the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. GREEN: At what salary?

Mr. MacKINNON: I am not sure at the moment what the salary is, but I can get that information. In answer to the second ques-

tion I may say that the individuals at present employed by the Canadian export board, whether temporaries or on loan from other departments, are being retained. The salaries of the extra officials to whom I have referred will be along the lines of civil service salaries.

Mr. GREEN: What are the salaries of the executive officers?

Mr. MacKINNON: Surely that is information I could give while the officials are in front of me.

Mr. GREEN: The minister says he can give only an idea of the cost. Surely there will have to be a vote to cover the cost of this corporation and careful consideration must have been given to what the cost will be. For example, the order in council provides for a capital of \$10,000,000. Have we already paid out that \$10,000,000? What additional sum will be required during the fiscal year?

Mr. MacKINNON: Surely my answer that I could not give the exact figures as to the cost of this organization was a proper one. It is a large organization, comprising 120 or 125 employees. It is impossible to state what the cost would be for a year, but I could give the figures as they exist to-day. It is an organization that will expand or possibly contract according to the needs of Canadian business and the demands made upon the services of the corporation.

Mr. GREEN: Is the minister not asking for a vote to cover the expenses of the corporation during the fiscal year?

Mr. MacKINNON: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Can the minister tell us to-night how much he is asking for that purpose?

Mr. MacKINNON: No.

Mr. THATCHER: What can this corporation do which the trade commissioners cannot do? If the corporation is set up, will our trade commissioners come under it?

Mr. MacKINNON: No; this is a corporation entirely outside of the trade commissioners.

Mr. THATCHER: Will there not be duplication there?

Mr. MacKINNON: No. The work of the corporation will not cause any duplication.

Mr. JACKMAN: Will the minister explain to the committee, although he may feel that he has explained it already in presenting the resolution when he said that the corporation had purchased on behalf of foreign governments and others goods to the value of \$404,-