

Mr. BLAIN. The last report Mr. MacRae has made.

Mr. OLIVER. I am informed that he does not make a general report but only a particular report on each inspection. If the hon. gentleman wishes to have these reports covering a certain period—

Mr. BLAIN. Say for the last six months.

Mr. OLIVER. All right.

Mr. BOYCE. May I ask the hon. minister whether he has had brought to his attention the report of Mr. Bryce on the condition of health of the Industrial schools in Manitoba and the Northwest?

Mr. OLIVER. The investigation was made on my order.

Office of the Auditor General—salaries, \$70,425; contingencies, \$18,000.

Mr. FIELDING. The increases there are statutory and to provide for certain promotions which the Auditor General desires to make. He proposes to appoint one additional chief clerk, to promote three second-class clerks to first class, to promote three junior seconds to second class, to promote four third-class to junior seconds, and to appoint five extra clerks to third-class clerkships at their present salaries. That is extra clerks who are now in the temporary class and are paid out of contingencies will be made permanent. In the contingencies there is an increase of \$1,000 which includes fifteen statutory increases. The Auditor General proposes to ask that of his temporary clerks five be placed on the permanent list, and that will leave some vacancies on the temporary list for emergencies as they arise from time to time.

Mr. U. WILSON. Why should the item for contingencies be so large?

Mr. FIELDING. The item of contingencies includes temporary clerks who are not on the permanent list. If they are on the permanent list they appear under the head of civil government, but if they are not permanent they are paid out of contingencies.

Mr. U. WILSON. How many are there of them?

Mr. FIELDING. Twenty.

Mr. U. WILSON. Are they constantly employed? If so, why are they not on the permanent list?

Mr. FIELDING. The practice is to have a number of temporary people who are sometimes employed longer than one expects, but the theory of their appointment is that when the work is not pressing they may be dropped.

Mr. U. WILSON. Do you not think that is a pretty large number?

Mr. OLIVER.

Mr. FIELDING. You must have some elasticity. There are seasons when the work of the Auditor General is very pressing, and you must have these extra clerks.

Mr. FOSTER. How many chief clerks are there in all?

Mr. FIELDING. Last season's appropriation for chief clerks made provision for seven and we propose to give eight.

Mr. FOSTER. Were the positions all filled last year?

Mr. FIELDING. There are seven actually in the service now.

Mr. FOSTER. Were there seven all through the year?

Mr. FIELDING. The Auditor General informs me that I am mistaken. There were six actually in the service.

Mr. FOSTER. Then there was provision made last year for seven?

Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. But there was not an additional one appointed?

Mr. FIELDING. No, that is correct.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the reason for making provision and then finding it is unnecessary?

Mr. FIELDING. The Auditor General informs me that provision was made by his predecessor, but that he did not carry out what was his apparent intention. He did not create the office.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the same remark apply to the first-class clerks?

Mr. FIELDING. The number of first-class clerks proposed now is six as against five.

Mr. FOSTER. There seems to have been only four last year.

Mr. FIELDING. You have to add Mr. Bissonnette, who was a second-class clerk, and has been promoted since the 31st March, after the Auditor General's Report was issued.

Mr. FOSTER. What are the promotions you propose to make?

Mr. FIELDING. The names are not yet determined. They will be largely, if not wholly, in the way of seniority. The first step is to get the vote.

Mr. FOSTER. At the same time it is usual to find out the intention of the department, as otherwise we can have no effective criticism.

Mr. FIELDING. It would be very inconvenient if every time we asked a vote for a public servant we had to determine who is to fill the vacancy. Some times it is easy to indicate, but in others it is not.