

Mr. BELAND: The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment has a unit in most of our important cities, including Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, London, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax, and sub units at Victoria and St. John, N.B.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Does the minister get reports from these units?

Mr. BELAND: By all means, and very often, too.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Are these reports available?

Mr. BELAND: Any public document is available for any hon. member. All he has to do is to make a motion for its production. If my hon. friend wants to see these reports, and will go to the department, I am sure he will be afforded every facility for their inspection.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Civil Government—Health—salaries, \$152,950; contingencies, \$70,400.

Mr. MANION: What is the increase in this item?

Mr. BELAND: There is really no increase. It will be seen on referring to page 88 that there is a reduction of \$600 in the contingencies. In civil government the increase is \$5,642.50, made up as follows: Statutory increases \$3,822.50; promotions and adjustments, \$1,220; one temporary clerk—heretofore paid out of contingencies—now made permanent and paid from the civil government vote, \$600. We have not one more employee in the department than we had last year.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton): What particular work is done by the department?

Mr. BELAND: I think my hon. friend must have been out of the House when I passed my main estimates. I then gave in detail the work of the department. We look after the supervision of all the quarantine stations, the medical inspection of immigrants, and the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, the Opium and Narcotic Drugs Act, the Housing Act, and we are engaged in other activities as well.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): I notice that some of what the minister describes as statutory increases are increases of \$240, \$260, and in one case \$360. Surely those are not statutory increases?

Mr. BELAND: We could not pay them any other way. I have no authority to grant [Mr. McQuarrie.]

an increase to any permanent employee in my department; he must be classified by the Civil Service Commission and receive the salary attaching to his position. I am sorry I cannot give my hon. friend the details in each case, but I think the increase varies in proportion to salary. \$240 is an ordinary statutory increase for a certain salary.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): I think possibly I am right, Mr. Chairman, in thinking these increases are not statutory. I notice here one principal clerk at \$2,400. This must be a promotion?

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): Some of these are promotions?

Mr. BELAND: Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): The department is responsible for the promotions, but the Civil Service Commission is responsible for the statutory increases; is that the way it works out?

Mr. BELAND: No promotion can be granted an employee unless the Civil Service Commission vouches for it.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): Exactly; but the department asks for it in the first place?

Mr. BELAND: I think the employee asks for it.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): Does the employee get an increase when he asks for it?

Mr. BELAND: If an employee has been in the service for say, thirteen, fourteen or fifteen years, and at the age of forty, say, has reached his maximum of perhaps \$1,600, and he asks to be promoted to a higher class, that is a legitimate ambition for any man in the service. Then if he qualifies to the satisfaction of the Civil Service Commission he is promoted to another class and gets a yearly increase until he reaches his maximum.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): I notice that the statutory increase involves a certain relatively small sum each year, but promotion may involve anywhere from \$200 to \$300 or even more. I quite understand the minister's explanation, but is there any rule which the department follows under which an employee who has served a certain length of time is entitled to promotion if there is a vacancy in the class above?