

enough to constitute a district office, it is large enough to look after all the needs of the Kingston area without asking the veterans in the Kingston area to come to Ottawa to obtain what they want.

Mr. BROOME: But there are a limited number of sub-district offices. Certainly Windsor is the only one in the Ontario region, that I see. No, that is the main office. Are there checks being made all the time as to where these district offices are required or not required, or whether you need a district office in some other location.

In other words, the district offices do not seem to cover the whole country, apart from the main offices; and what I am wondering is whether the function of the district office is working itself out so that you do not need them.

Mr. LALONDE: We are, of course, conducting a constant survey of the volume of work in each office. As a result of that continuing survey, for instance, three years ago Kingston, which was a district office, became a sub-district because the volume of work had gone down to a point where it did not justify the continuation of a district office. We also have to take into account the geographical location; for instance, there is no doubt that the work in the district office in Charlottetown is not as great as that of the district office in Montreal. That is because of the population and the number of veterans in the area. But we have to maintain a district office at Charlottetown because of the geographical problems. We have to have a personnel office in Charlottetown; we could not operate from Halifax. We have to have our treasury services in Charlottetown.

Mr. BROOME: The point I am making is that if you have offices in British Columbia, at Vancouver, and if you go to Mr. Herridge's riding you have 350 miles of travelling. A lot of these district offices are relatively close to the main office. It was wondering if you operate in British Columbia with one main office if you need the sub-district office.

Mr. LALONDE: Yes, we think we can only operate on the basis on which we operate now, because the populated areas of British Columbia are so scattered that it would be impossible to have a sub-district office in any one area where you would eliminate the travelling we have to do from Vancouver.

Mr. MATTHEWS: How complete are the services in Victoria, British Columbia? From what I am given to understand they obtain very good service in that office.

Mr. LALONDE: This is our largest sub-district office. The only thing they do not have in Victoria is personnel services; that is handled from Vancouver. The legal services are also handled in Vancouver, as well as the main district treasury office. However, there is a treasury representative in Victoria.

Mr. MATTHEWS: And, of course, at the hospital there the island receives very good service anyway; the island is pretty close to Vancouver.

Mr. LALONDE: Again there is the geographical problem involved; even from the Victoria sub-district office they do a lot of travelling.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: In regard to D.V.A. district offices, I would like to ask why there is no mention made of the Yukon. From my knowledge of the Yukon I know there is a considerable population of veterans there. Is any consideration being given, perhaps at some future date, to open a sub-district office in Whitehorse?

Mr. LALONDE: This is a problem we are now studying. We have had representations from people who live in that area and we have discussed it with the region officials. Our regional administrator in the area has visited the whole of the Yukon in order to find out what the local problems are and the way in which the veteran population is distributed.