

the Armistice. This is a very large number, yet it does not include the whole number that have been appointed, because we have been informed that it does not include the employees of the Government railways, the Government Merchant Marine, and the Taxation Branch of the Finance Department. So it appears by the revised statement of the Government that something in the neighbourhood of twelve thousand employees, temporary and permanent, have been appointed by the Civil Service Board to the various public departments since the Armistice. The minister now says that there are 48,000 employees altogether in the service of the Government. Consequently the employees have been increased since the date of the Armistice by 25 per cent. I would like to bring this matter to the attention of the minister, that if it is true that about 12,000 new civil servants have been appointed since the Armistice, it means an enormous addition to the Civil Service. As I said before if you credit them with \$1,000 apiece each year, you increase the expenditure of this country by \$12,000,000 a year; and if you allot them \$2,000 apiece, which is nearer the mark, you increase that expenditure by \$24,000,000 a year. I submit that that is a very large increase indeed, and that my hon. friend will have to do little more explaining before he will satisfy the people of Canada that it was necessary to make such an enormous increase in the staff of civil servants since the date of the Armistice.

Mr. ROWELL: I do not want to review the Budget debate; strictly speaking my hon. friend's remarks are out of order, but I did not want to interrupt him. The hon. member has referred to the answer which he received in the House when the question was asked as to the number of appointments that had been made. When the answer was given, the Secretary of State added that among those who were appointed temporarily, "many thousands were for short periods of less than thirty days." Notwithstanding that information given to my hon. friend he stated that he estimated at least 25,000 were continued in the public service and he figured the average salary would be \$2,000 per individual per year, making an increase of \$50,000,000 in the annual charge for the Civil Service. Now I gave the facts to the House the other night and showed that the hon. member's estimate was without any foundation in fact. It is quite true a large number have been employed since the Armistice but

[Mr. Sinclair.]

where the appointment is for a week or a month or two or three months, and bearing in mind the constant change in employees on public works, the wonder is that the number has not been larger. The departments are constantly demobilizing, are constantly letting men go and reducing the staffs. The personnel on Public Works is constantly changing. The question is not how many men have been employed, but what has been the actual increase in the Civil Service during the period. I gave the House the other night the number employed at the present time. I showed the difference between the two periods and I explained how many had been added and how many had been discharged. My hon. friend's statement was entirely incorrect and wholly beside the mark as can be ascertained by a review of the figures I gave in my address on the Budget.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I have taken the statement from the figures which I received to-day from the Government. If I had received those figures before I made my speech on the Budget I would have used them. At the time I first asked the question I got a very prompt answer—within three or four days—of the number of permanent and temporary civil servants that had been appointed since the Armistice. But when I followed the matter up with a second question—because as my hon. friend said the information was somewhat indefinite owing to the fact that certain men had only been employed for a short time—and inquired how many of these twenty thousand odd temporary employees were still on the Government's pay-roll, I got no answer to the question. The matter went on from day to day, and finally the question was put down as an order for return. I only obtained that return this morning. So I think my hon. friend will admit I am treating him and the Government very fairly, and I am putting the return on record to show what the Government say now in regard to the number of appointments they have made. It is not cleared up. We know how many appointments they have made, and I still hold to the opinion I expressed before, that with an over-crowded Civil Service at the date of the Armistice these 12,000 new appointments cannot be justified.

Mr. CAHILL: Do I understand the minister will have to bring down Supplementary Estimates covering this item?

Mr. ROWELL: Yes.