

from the father to the daughter, so that they would be able to say, "It is not in the same hands now." Is that an efficient way of running a postal service which has so many ramifications so far as the public are concerned? The member for the constituency, who went to the Postmaster General several times to protest against the appointment, could do nothing, but the local patronage committee could successfully insist upon that particular individual retaining his position. It is of such matters that I complain; yet somehow or another we seem to go on in the same rut, unable to make any progress, and when it is suggested that we should run the Post Office Department as any competent business concern would do we are told, "Well, the treasury department have control, and they instruct the department how to make out the accounts." Yet to-day the accounts are not in much better position than they were two years ago.

Mr. DUPUIS: Although I tried as best I could to follow the trend of thought of the hon. member for Winnipeg North, I find myself unable to appreciate the logic of his remarks. The hon. member is very severe on the government. Of course he does not mean Liberal or Conservative, but he claims that the Canadian government as constituted is administering the country in the wrong way.

An hon. MEMBER: The post office.

Mr. DUPUIS: Especially the post office. But if we apply the same logic to other departments, what do we find with reference to the Department of the Secretary of State? If I am not mistaken, this parliament building is under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State; and if the reasoning of my hon. friend is sound, he should be rendered an account for his seat in the house and pay rent for it and for his private office in this building, the account being rendered in the name of the riding of Winnipeg North. How can a government divide administration department by department? All the public buildings in Ottawa are in the same situation. Take, for instance, the confederation building, where space is occupied by several departments. I do not believe we shall get very far ahead with that sort of discussion; it is more academic than practical. What astonishes me most is to hear such remarks coming from a member who is committed to the doctrines of socialism. Socialism means, not the kind of centralization he seems to want, but a policy where everything is governed and controlled on behalf of the common cause, where everything is together. I suppose that if his party took control of this country, everything would be governed

[Mr. Heaps.]

by the same head. They would not act as my hon. friend tries to induce the minister to do. Everything would be combined for the common good, irrespective of the department which might administer the post office. I submit it is impossible for a government to handle administration in the way he suggests.

Mr. BETTS: I notice under this vote very substantial increases in the staff of the department. For instance, this year there are three chief clerks as compared with two last year; twenty clerks grade 2, last year nineteen; six clerks grade 1, last year two; eight stenographers grade 3, last year six; twenty stenographers grade 2, last year seventeen; two stenographers grade 1, last year none; seven typists grade 1, last year three; six packers and helpers, last year five. There is a total of 150 this year as compared with 132 last year. Will the minister tell the committee, either in the medium of pounds of mail or letters carried or by some standard that we can understand, what accounts for the increase in staff?

Mr. EULER: The reason for the increase in staff is chiefly this, that whereas temporaries ordinarily are not counted in the list of civil service employees, when the restrictions on permanent appointments were removed by order in council a great many temporaries were made permanent, with the result that this list has been increased.

Mr. BETTS: Nevertheless the vote for temporary assistance is the same as last year's, \$25,000.

Mr. EULER: The reason for the increase in the number is that many temporaries were appointed as permanents, and the other temporaries, to whom the hon. gentlemen refers, are for purposes of emergency and so on during the coming year.

Mr. BENNETT: But there is a total increase of eighteen.

Mr. EULER: I suppose one could justify increases on the ground that the business of the post office is increasing. Times have been a bit better, and that is reflected in post office activities the same as in any other business.

Mr. BETTS: I hope that is the case; but would it not be reasonable for an acute business man like the acting Postmaster General to tell us to what extent the business has increased to justify eighteen additional helpers.

Mr. EULER: The business has increased \$1,300,000.

Mr. BENNETT: That was not at head office.