

Mr. KYTE: Will the minister say it is not his intention to appoint another officer to do the work done by Mr. Brown?

Mr. CROTHERS: No, I do not say that. I may recommend some one else but he will not be under the name or style of Assistant Deputy Minister of Labour.

Mr. KYTE: So that the minister is abolishing the office for the purpose of making it easier to abolish Mr. Brown?

Mr. CROTHERS: Oh, no.

Mr. KYTE: Changing the name only. He admits that another appointment is to be made but he says that the officer will not be known as assistant deputy minister.

Mr. CROTHERS: I did not say that it would be made; I say it might be made.

Mr. KYTE: Will this new man who may be appointed have the same salary that Mr. Brown enjoyed?

Mr. CROTHERS: I do not know.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Was there any investigation before the dismissal of Mr. Brown? I ask this because I happen to know Mr. Brown; he was in a very high position and surely this cannot pass unnoticed. Was there an investigation as to the facts which gave rise to his dismissal?

Mr. CROTHERS: Does my hon. friend mean an investigation by any outside party or outside source?

Mr. LEMIEUX: Yes.

Mr. CROTHERS: No, it was not necessary; I knew the facts myself.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: The minister talks about the facts; I would like to know what the facts are.

Mr. MACDONALD: This is war time, and economy is necessary; at all events the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) told us this afternoon that the Cabinet needed money, and as, according to the minister, an assistant deputy minister is not necessary, I suppose the minister will move to reduce the vote by the amount intended for that officer and dispense with the services of anybody for that purpose this year?

Mr. VERVILLE: I do not quite agree with the suggestion of my hon. friend. This department has not any too much money to its credit so far. If the minister is going to appoint anybody else to do some of the work in the Labour Department. I

[Mr. Crothers.]

would not ask the minister to drop the provision for that man this year, but I would ask him to pick out of the 7,000,000 people in the nine provinces, and God knows how many cities, a good, competent, practical labour man, and I do not care what his politics are. Politics makes no difference at all. Let that man try to help him in carrying on the work of his department.

Mr. GRAHAM: The vote is for the assistant deputy minister. The minister may not use it for anything else; so that he might as well drop it. If it is a vote for something else he had better put it under that designation. He cannot take a vote for one officer and give it to another.

Mr. CROTHERS: We do not put it under the name of the assistant deputy minister.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have not the vote before me.

Mr. CROTHERS: There is a practice that obtains in the department, and has for many years—I do not know whether it will strike hon. members as being a reasonable one or not—but it is this: If a man is promoted from one position to another, the sum of money that he received in the lower position is voted next year and may be voted for ten years one after another although the position is not filled. The vote is taken every year and if it is thought wise at any time to appoint a man to the vacancy he is appointed and the money is there to pay him. Take the \$3,000 item there, for instance; that was voted for Mr. Coats, who was then editor of the Labour Gazette. He was transferred to the Department of Trade and Commerce about two and a half years ago. The vote appeared there every year. It was there last year and was there this year, but it was not used. It may be thought necessary this year to appoint a man to the position covered by this vote, to do certain work in the Department. There are several vacancies, as I have explained. If a man is promoted or dies, the vote for his former position is carried on and there is a vacancy which may not be filled for two or three years. I do not know whether it is a good practice, but I found it and it has been continued, not only in my Department but in other departments.

Mr. MACDONALD: You are not economizing at all.

Mr. CROTHERS: It does not follow that this will be expended