

Price laid down in hospital,	
48.10 wine gallons . . . . .	\$ 4.85
38.48 imperial gallons . . . . .	6.07
Best price we could obtain from Win-	
nipeg, imperial gallon. . . . .	6.75
Price to University of Saskatchewan is:	
48.10 gallons at 80c. . . . .	\$ 38.48
Freight. . . . .	5.57
Delivery charges. . . . .	.50
	\$44.55

The charge to the hospital is \$6.07 per gallon, and the charge to the University \$1.16, or an excessive charge of \$4.91. The hospital doctors point out to me that, while the Dominion Government sells to hospitals methylated spirits at 50 cents, yet the hospitals do not care to use them, they say that the injurious effect on the sight should be sufficient to debar their use in any hospital. I wish the minister would ascertain if it is possible to devise means by which the public hospital of Saskatoon, which is carried on at a very considerable loss each year—particularly during the war when a good many soldiers have to be treated, the allowance for soldiers, being very small—could get some relief. Could arrangements be made under which public hospitals might import alcohol duty free, for their own purposes?

Mr. REID: I will take this matter up with the Minister of Inland Revenue, and see if anything can be done.

Mr. BUREAU: As the minister proposes to let this item stand for further information, could he ascertain how many inspectors there are in the Customs Department, and how many other officers are employed on inspection?

Mr. REID: I will give the hon. gentleman that information when the item is before us again, because I shall have a detailed list before me of all the officers in each port and of the different inspectors for each province.

Mr. BUREAU: "Different" inspectors for each province?

Mr. REID: Yes. In the province of Quebec they have three inspectors and three assistants. I will have a full list of these officers, and will be able to give the information.

Mr. BUREAU: I should like to know more particularly as to the other officers of inspection. Who are the officers who go on inspection other than the regular inspectors, and their assistants?

Mr. REID: I will have the information for the hon. gentleman.

Item stands.

[Mr. McCraney.]

Department of Public Works—to provide for an increase in the salary of the assistant chief architect to \$4,000, \$700.

Mr. REID: According to the Civil Service Act the present salary for this position is \$3,300. This vote is to attach to the position a salary of \$4,000. There is not any Assistant Chief Architect at the present time. I have no idea who is to fill the position; that will be dealt with by the future Minister of Public Works.

Mr. BUREAU: Why is the increase asked for?

Mr. REID: These Estimates were prepared by the late Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers), who intended filling the position. I do not know why he has not filled it; perhaps he could not get a good man.

Mr. BUREAU: How long has the position been vacant?

Mr. REID: About two years and a half.

Mr. BUREAU: In view of the fact that we have to pay \$700,000,000 to the Canadian Northern, to say nothing of our war expenditure; and in view of the fact that the department has got along during the last couple of years without an Assistant Chief Architect, I think we could well dispense with this item of \$700. Having regard to the strenuous times through which we are passing, I do not see how the acting minister can justify this vote for increasing the salary attaching to a position which has not been filled during the last two and a half years. Public works are not now being carried on very rapidly; the Government is tightening every string and advising the people to tighten their belts to help carry on the war. I repeat that this item might well be struck out.

Mr. REID: I promise the hon. gentleman that I will not fill it while I am Acting Minister of Public Works.

Mr. MURPHY: Who was the last Assistant Chief Architect?

Mr. REID: Mr. R. C. Wright, a good man. If I were filling the position, I would give it to him.

Mr. MURPHY: Why is he not there now?

Mr. REID: He resigned.

Mr. MURPHY: I would not have made any observations about this item were it not for the explanation, given by the hon. minister in reply to the inquiry of the member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau), that this item was prepared by the late Minister of