

Supply—Trade and Commerce

bill is to be proclaimed. The third group consists of those who have not reached the prescribed age and who are subject to a reduction of one-third in their pension.

A number of cases have come to my attention of men with seventeen, eighteen or nineteen years' service who have had to take a one-third reduction in their pension. There is also some question as to why the date of June, 1944, was accepted. These men are men who were in the permanent forces before June, 1944. There appears to be considerable discrimination between those who were in the permanent forces before that time and those who have been taken into the forces since then. The former will lose one-third of the pension, while those who have joined since June, 1944, will probably be entitled to full pension upon retirement. Will the minister give us a statement in explanation of that situation?

Mr. Claxton: I am familiar with the case the hon. member has raised, but the figures have not been kept in such a way as would enable me to answer his question. To do so it would be necessary to ascertain the number of officers who have gone on pension since 1945 and put them into the categories that he mentioned. That would be quite a job, but I am sure we can secure the information for the hon. member. We should be able to do so within the next couple of days.

Mr. Noseworthy: Is my analysis of the situation correct so far as the three groups are concerned?

Mr. Claxton: As to the groups it is correct, but with regard to the rates obtained by the various groups and the reasons there are three, some supplementary information will have to be given.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

General administration—

423. Departmental administration, \$482,875.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): We all know in a general way that the minister's department covers a lot of territory. He has a great many things under his charge. Without leaving it to a series of questions as we go along, is the minister prepared to give us a broad view of the responsibilities under his charge? For example, I have here an alphabetical list of the activities of the department. It begins with the agricultural commodities branch and runs on through the economic research and development branch, and so on. Without going into detail, is the minister prepared, as a preliminary to the estimates and by way of assistance to us in understanding the whole situation, to use this

[Mr. Noseworthy.]

alphabetical list and outline the duties of his department? As a matter of fact the list is to be found in the departmental telephone directory in alphabetical form and in a more comprehensive way than I have ever seen it anywhere else. It will take some time, but if the minister will see fit to go through the list it will give members of the committee a better idea of the scope of the work of the department, the minister's responsibilities, and the relation of the various activities that are going on. If I may expand for a moment, there is a reference to the industrial development branch. Then a page or two later there is an industry and merchandising division; and of course I realize that merchandising is a thing by itself.

I have explained my point, and I wonder if the minister would do as I suggest, going right through and giving us a short account of the activities of each branch of his department. Let me illustrate what I mean. Under "Economic research and development" we have several headings. The first is information, which I presume is a general item under the direction of Mr. Skelton. Then we come to trade policy; then to organization and services; the economic research division, divided into three subdivisions which include area studies, industry studies and private and public investment. Then there is the economic forecasting division; the industrial development division, and so on. I hope I have made my point clear, so perhaps the minister will give us the story of the department, following down the line and explaining to us what each branch does.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I shall endeavour to explain the department as my hon. friend suggests. The annual report for 1949 has just been tabled, and I shall follow the headings as there set out. If my hon. friend has a copy of that report he may be able better to follow me.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): I should have, perhaps, but I have not.

Mr. Howe: First is the administration branch, which is similar to the administration branch of every department. It includes the deputy minister and two assistant deputies, and the accounting and administrative branches common to most departments; the personnel division; the central pay office; the staff training and welfare section; the records division, and various activities which come under the heading of general administration.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Would the minister prefer that I withhold any questions until he is through?