

Mr. FISHER. \$345,000 in the last five years. I think I am safe in saying that these are increases which were made at certain times, and they have been going on every year since.

Mr. BURRELL. Are these actual increases to officials, or do they apply to the natural increase in the outside service resulting from the increasing needs of the country?

Mr. FISHER. I asked that question and was told that they were increases to existing officials' salaries, and not increases to the number of offices or officers.

Mr. SPROULE. There are two ways of increasing salaries. For instance, postmasters got 40 per cent of the revenues of the office, and if the revenues of the office went up, their salaries went up correspondingly.

Mr. FISHER. I am informed that their salaries were increased apart from that. If there was an increase to 50 per cent, that would be included in these figures. Now, I take for granted that to the Post Office Department and the Customs Department would apply my hon. friend's description of a public servant in the city of Ottawa doing work for the government on one side of the street, and another doing work for the government on the other side of the street, and one getting an increase and the other not. I have not details to show how much the clerks in the city of Ottawa Post Office have had their salaries increased during the last five years, but as the Postmaster General has been giving increases throughout the country, I have no doubt the city of Ottawa post office has had its share.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Allow me to explain that the increase to which my hon. friend refers has not been applied to the clerks in the outside service, properly speaking. That is covered by the increase which I obtained from parliament for postmasters some years ago. The House may remember that Sir Wm. Mulock, when Postmaster General, obtained an increase in the salaries of small postmasters from \$12 to \$25, and three years ago I obtained a further increase to \$35. That accounts for most of that increase. The clerks who are under the statute receive their statutory increases, but there has been no special increase in the salaries of the outside service of the Post Office Department.

Mr. FISHER. These figures indicate that a very great improvement has been made in the pay of the general outside service. There may be portions of the outside service which have not reaped the advantage, while there are other portions which have reaped a very great advantage. The figures do not indicate how many there

are in each category; but they show that the government has not been unmindful of the needs and desires of the outside service. I want to point out that these increases were possible without an amendment to any particular statute, and are consequently in an entirely different position from the increases made to the inside service, which are made by a definite statute. That is why in this particular case we have introduced a statute and asked parliament to pass it, while in the other case we do not require to do so, as an annual vote in the estimates of each department will accomplish the result desired.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will the Minister of Customs inform us whether the \$345,000 included in the statement read by the Minister of Agriculture represents an actual annual increase to the outside officials of his department?

Mr. PATERSON. On that point I cannot speak positively. When I take an extra vote, as I did this year, a certain amount of it we hope to use in increasing the salaries of the men in the service, and a certain amount we estimate may be required for new offices. Therefore, I cannot tell positively. I would have to inquire.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Perhaps the minister would be good enough to inquire. I know there have been substantial increases, but I do not think they amounted to so much as the sum mentioned in the statement of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. FISHER. I have here a copy of the Labour Gazette, which states that the increase of wages granted in 1907 to various employees of the Customs Department amounted to \$160,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It is quite possible that the person who compiled the figures for the Labour Gazette may have taken the whole \$160,000 to represent increases, while a portion of that may have been utilized by the Customs Department for the payment of new officials.

Mr. FISHER. I am informed not.

Mr. PATERSON. There was one year, two or three years ago, when we took an extra amount of \$250,000. I remember we took a very large amount; so it is possible that is correct.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Those amounts have been continued after once being taken?

Mr. PATERSON. If they have been given to the same individual. If one died, for instance, and a new man came in, sometimes we started him at a little less.

Mr. FISHER. To show that what I said was correct, here is another item with regard to the Department of Indian Affairs.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.