

Mr. WEICHEL: I mean each individual branch?

Mr. LALONDE: No, not unless the provincial commands have made copies and distributed them to the branches.

Mr. HERRIDGE: They do in British Columbia.

Mr. LALONDE: I am not aware of that.

Mr. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, I notice that C. A. Scott's address is Halifax; has he also an office in Saint John?

Mr. LALONDE: Yes, as district superintendent of Veterans Land Act his head office is in Saint John, but the office of the regional administrator for the Atlantic area has always been in Halifax.

Mr. ROGERS: Where do these gentlemen with dual capacity spend most of their time?

Mr. LALONDE: In the district office where they are located. They are asked to take a trip within the region; in other words, to visit the other district offices within their region once a month, if necessary. However, it is usually once every two months. The advantage of this system has been that previously whenever we wanted to bring together the people who did the work in the field in order to obtain their advice, we had to bring in 19 district administrators. This was very expensive and also a little unwieldy. Whereas now the regional administrators come to Ottawa three times a year on specific dates and we have what we call our advisory council meeting at that time.

In this way we are able to discuss with people who work in the field some of our problems and make recommendations to the minister. So that we are constantly in touch with what goes on in the field; otherwise, it is rather difficult to do it while sitting down in your office here in Ottawa.

Mr. ROGERS: I think it is a very good idea.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I would like at this time to compliment the persons responsible for this arrangement. It is distinctly against the trend in modern government administration; and I think those responsible should be complimented on this saving which is not affecting the efficiency of the department.

Mr. LALONDE: We are supposed to find these things out, Mr. Herridge; that is our job.

Mr. MONTGOMERY: May I ask, why a sub-district? I think you explained it last year but I have forgotten.

Mr. LALONDE: There are a few places where we need an office but there are not enough veterans or work involved to maintain a complete district set-up; so we call these offices sub-district offices. They are attached to a district office where we have a full complement of administrative services. For instance in district offices you have personnel services; you have treasury offices; you have legal services; you have financial services. These are not needed in the sub-district offices. They do the local work with a minimum of personnel, and all their paper work is done through the district offices. This eliminates a duplication of the services I have just mentioned.

Mr. MONTGOMERY: They would come under the district administrator of the particular area.

Mr. LALONDE: Yes, that is correct. For instance, in Sydney, they come under the district administrator for Halifax; in Kingston they come under the district administrator for Ottawa.

Mr. MONTGOMERY: Would these just have one person and a secretary, or something like that?

Mr. LALONDE: Oh, no. In Kingston we have welfare services; we have treatment services—on a reduced scale, of course. The Canadian pension commission has a pension medical examiner, and while that staff is not large