

Mr. MARTIN: If the hon. member will look at parliamentary return, reference number 164, he will find the details by provinces for the period he has mentioned.

Mr. MacNICOL: The king's printer does good work, and one of the best jobs he does is to print the speeches of the members of parliament which are mailed out to the ridings in Canada. By this means we are able to keep those whom we represent in touch with what we are doing and saying here. If they read the *Hansard* we send them they will be able to judge whether we should be returned or left at home. Why has the cost gone up so much that to-day it costs almost a small fortune to send out a few thousand copies containing five or six speeches?

Mr. MARTIN: It is simply a question of increased costs which are made up of additional wages paid to the staff and so on.

Mr. MacNICOL: Is there a cost department in the office of the king's printer?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. MacNICOL: Who would ascertain the exact cost in each case?

Mr. MARTIN: There is a specialist in cost accounting in the department.

Mr. FERGUSON: Prior to the war, the estimates for this branch were given as \$3,000,000, but now they run between \$4,000,000 and \$12,000,000. I have seen several of the pamphlets that are put out by the government. One was an expensive lithographed pamphlet advising employers to establish in their plants suggestion boxes into which employees would be able to drop suggestions for improving the business. To my own knowledge, that practice has been in operation for at least twenty-five years and there are a thousand plants in Canada that have had it for over ten years. If the government is to take its money and distribute twenty or twenty-five thousand pamphlets like that, then with the greatest respect I say to the minister that he had better watch some of the departments that are placing orders with the king's printer.

Mr. MARTIN: The minister has been accused of being too strict in that particular, but I can assure my hon. friend that he intends to continue in that regard.

Mr. KNOWLES: May I ask two questions? How many printers employed in the king's printer's establishment here in Ottawa are members of a trade union? When the king's

[Mr. Boucher.]

printer places an order for printing with an outside commercial firm, is it always placed with a union shop?

Mr. MARTIN: I shall have to defer replying to the first question. With regard to the second question I may say that during the war there were some instances, particularly with respect to some very rush requisitions, where that policy was not lived up to. I can assure my hon. friend that every endeavour is made in normal times to give business to such firms, where possible.

Mr. KNOWLES: It is the policy of the government that printing farmed out is to be placed with union shops?

Mr. MARTIN: It is the policy.

Mr. KNOWLES: Has consideration been given to placing the union label on such printing?

Mr. MARTIN: Consideration has been given to that.

Mr. KNOWLES: If it is the government's policy that farmed-out printing is to be placed with trade union shops will the minister indicate whether consideration has been given to entering into a collective agreement with the printing employees at the printing bureau here in Ottawa?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. KNOWLES: When vacancies occur in the higher posts in the department of public printing and stationery are they filled by promotion of employees who have been working there, or are outside persons brought in?

Mr. MARTIN: By promotion as far as is humanly possible.

Mr. KNOWLES: How far up does that policy apply?

Mr. MARTIN: The office of king's printer of course is one that is filled at the pleasure of the crown, but the principle applies to all others.

Mr. FERGUSON: Surely small printing offices which do not belong to a trade union will not be debarred from tendering, provided that they do efficient work?

Mr. MARTIN: That is why I said that every endeavour was made to do that wherever possible.

Mr. KNOWLES: You cannot suit both of us.

Mr. FERGUSON: He can suit the citizens.

Mr. HAZEN: The last sentence in the explanatory note reads: