

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That makes a total of 47 employees under this vote.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Could the minister give the committee at this moment any idea of the total number of employees in his department as a whole, and state whether any increases or reductions were made last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is a reduction over last year. My hon. friend is speaking of the total service?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Yes, the approximate number will do.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There were 2,104, last year, and we have 2,059 this year, a decrease of forty-five. The saving amounts to \$74,661.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Surely that is not the total number of employees in the Department of the Interior.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am told that is the total number in the Department of the Interior.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That is in the inside branch?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): And the outside as well, the whole service.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The reduction in numbers is only about forty-five?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): There is no department, I think, in the service of which I have heard more criticism as to over-manning than the Department of the Interior. What justification there is for that criticism I, personally, do not know, nor do I imagine the minister would have had time to find out. It would require almost a special investigation to determine. I have in my hand at this moment the evidence that was collected by Dr. Roche, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and presented to the Spinney parliamentary committee. It may not be inopportune to recall that evidence to the attention of the minister. My desire is to give him all the assistance I can in doing what I feel sure he wants to do, that is, cut down the staff and bring economies into effect; I think the minister is just as much in favour of that as I am. Dr. Roche stated that the result of the reorganization of the Printing Bureau by the Civil Service Commission, as set out in the report for 1921, at pages 6, 7 and 8, was to reduce the staff from 1,159 in 1919

to 732, a reduction of 428 or thirty-seven per cent, the saving in the annual pay-roll being \$746,000. He pointed out further that by these eliminations, and the introduction of modern machinery, the production of work in some branches of the bureau was actually increased, in spite of the reduction in the salary list by as high as 110 per cent. I have here the answers given to questions put to Dr. Roche by Mr. Euler, the member for North Waterloo. At the same investigation Dr. Roche stated that a like reorganization in the Interior department would produce a similar saving. That is the point I wish to call to the attention of the minister—a similar saving can be effected in the Interior department. And by the way, Dr. Roche was himself at the head of that department for some time so that he would be in a position to know the facts. I should like also to call the minister's attention to sessional papers 112 and 112 (a) for the year 1923. These were returns brought down in reply to questions asked by Senator Bradbury, of the upper house. They give the total salaries, wages, and bonuses of permanent and temporary employees of the Interior department under the Civil Service Act as \$3,706,009.68. Now, to take Dr. Roche's statements at their face value we would have this situation arise as a result of reorganization: thirty-seven per cent of that amount would represent a saving of \$1,371,223.33, so that if Dr. Roche's estimate is correct that is the sum that would be saved to the public treasury. Moreover the above-mentioned return does not include the number of positions which were exempted from the Civil Service Act. If they were included in the reorganization there would be a further increase in the total saving. The Department of the Interior has some seven branches.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Seven?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Some seven distinct and large branches, which deal with Dominion lands—

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Oh yes, all right.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): These branches are declared to have overflowed the capacity of the public buildings that contain them, and I want to ask the minister in closing, just how many buildings are now housing the Lands branch of the Department of the Interior, that is taking into account the classification work and so on?