

and the moment differences are found notice is given in the same periodical of such inaccuracy and the correction made. Surely no reasonable person will complain about officials who so quickly and promptly correct any inaccuracy.

There is much more that one would be inclined to say, but I think it would be wasting the time of the committee to indulge in any further reply to such statements the hon. member has made.

At six o'clock the speaker resumed the chair and the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

The house again in committee of supply, Mr. Gobeil in the chair.

Trade and Commerce—Dominion Bureau of Statistics, \$351,000.

Mr. BRADETTE: This afternoon the minister gave us some information with regard to those employed in connection with the census, and I understand that those temporary employees have an opportunity to obtain permanent employment under the Civil Service Commission. This afternoon the minister said that some of these temporary employees would become permanent, and I should like to know how the department selects those who are to become permanent. Is it a question of merit or is it carried out under the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. STEVENS: They can be appointed only in conformity with and under the terms of the Civil Service Act, in the usual way.

Mr. BRADETTE: How is the selection made as to who shall remain in the service? At first we had quite a number of these temporary employees in connection with the census, but now that this work is completed most of these employees have been dispensed with. The minister, however, said some would be kept in the service permanently.

Mr. STEVENS: I am afraid I did not make myself clear. Those now employed by the bureau of statistics in connection with census work will gradually disappear; I may say that the number of these temporary employees at the moment is 272. A number of those employees will be retired on April 1; a further number will be retired on June 1, while still more will retire in August, and I

think by about October the services of practically all these temporary employees will be dispensed with. A few will be retained in connection with the completion of the ten volumes that will comprise the census work in its finished form; these few will be retained for some months longer, I do not know exactly how long. Then I told my hon. friend that possibly a few, I do not know how many, might have such special training that it would be desirable to retain them. In that case they will be brought into the service under the Civil Service Act, if they qualify; if they do not, the only other way to bring them in is by way of an estimate passed by this house, but no decision has been made in the matter as yet.

Mr. BRADETTE: As to those few who may be retained, will that be because their special qualifications are known to the department or to the Civil Service Commission or to the minister?

Mr. STEVENS: It will be done by examination, under the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. SANDERSON: I suppose the very large decrease in this item, amounting to almost \$200,000, is due to the retirement of so many temporary employees?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes, the census staff.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): In that regard may I ask what is the normal expenditure on this bureau during periods between the taking of the census?

Mr. STEVENS: Last year the vote for the regular work of the bureau was \$156,000, and this year we are asking for \$148,000 for that regular work. I can run over the figures for the last five years. Last year the regular vote was \$156,000; the year before it was \$153,000, and for the three previous years it was \$189,000, \$127,000 and \$114,000.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): From these figures I am glad to see that apparently there is some realization of the great importance of the work done by this bureau. In my opinion it is one of the most, if not the most important instruments with which to make information available to the state, and is one of the finest sources of information by means of which members of this house and the government itself can be governed in relation to matters both social and economic. I should regret very much if any government were to attempt to curtail the activities of this department or the services which it renders, which are not only of inestimable value to