

Mr. ROBB: I wish to make a correction. Last night I explained to the committee that the increase in the Auditor General's department was something like \$40,430. Things were going so well that I did not get to the decreases made in the department. These bring the actual net increase to a little over \$3,000.

Superannuation—to provide for retiring allowances to former employees of the Department of Printing and Stationery \$34,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I understand that some years ago a certain group of men were retired from the Printing Bureau just before regular provision was made for pensions. These men, I believe, have been drawing pensions up to the present time, but these now lapse. Is any provision being made to cover their cases?

Mr. MURDOCK: No. Those employees were retired in 1919 and 1920 under certain orders in council just prior to the Calder Act coming into effect. They were retired on a certain uniform basis having regard to their respective ages and length of service, the retiring allowances running from one year and one month to five years and one month. For the last two or three years I have had the matter before me, but no action has been taken to continue the allowances. Some of these employees are more than sixty-five years of age, and others have twenty-eight to thirty-one years of service to their credit.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Their claims would be as good as those of the individuals who would be provided for by the item under discussion?

Mr. MURDOCK: They have so argued, and that might be favourably considered. Under all the circumstances, in view of the general cry for economy and retrenchment, this government did not feel that it should revive superannuation allowances which had elapsed.

Item agreed to.

Customs and Excise—

Amount required to create positions and make appointments of officers for the prevention of smuggling and to investigate reported frauds against the revenue, notwithstanding anything contained in the Civil Service Act and the said positions and staff so appointed to be wholly excluded from said act; also to provide for expenses of such officers and for the purchase or charter of vessels and for the purchase or hire of automobiles to be used in the prevention of smuggling or other offences against the revenue laws. . . . \$350,000 00

Salaries and contingent expenses of the several ports in the Dominion, including pay for overtime of officers notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act—and temporary buildings and rentals. . . .	70,057 39
Miscellaneous—printing and stationery, subscriptions to commercial papers, flags, dating stamps, locks, instruments, etc., for various ports of entry, express charges on samples, stationery and legal forms, legal expenses, premiums on guarantee bonds, and uniforms for customs officers. . . .	5,502 28
	\$425,559 67

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Mr. Chairman, I notice that the government is making another of its characteristic inroads on the Civil Service Act.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not know which hon. minister said that, but I should like to be able to distinguish him as being really honest about this and unwilling to continue the farce of pretending that the government is still in favour of non-patronage.

Mr. MURDOCK: It was not a minister that said "hear, hear."

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am sorry—the sham is to continue for the entire outfit. But the fact is the government is pyramiding the number of offices that it takes out of the control of the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Chairman, I protest against this policy.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POWER: We think he doth protest too much.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My hon. friends laugh—the Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock) and the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power). They both see the joke of this thing. The hon. member for Quebec South is at least sincere; he believes in wiping out the Civil Service Commission altogether.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is another; we have two sincere gentlemen on that side. I wonder if we could get a third.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: There are three; can we not have a fourth?

Mr. CANNON: There are only three commissioners.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is the idea of the Liberal party. Well, we are always learning something.