

municipality did intercede on his behalf, recommending that he receive citizenship papers, would the minister take that into consideration?

Mr. CAHAN: I can give no promise. One has to deal with individual cases. Where you have about twenty thousand of these applications coming in every year, the correspondence averaging nearly a thousand letters a week, one has to endeavour to exercise reasonable discretion, and that I do. If the hon. gentleman brings a particular case to my personal attention I will see if I can find some way to satisfy his wishes. But I can give no definite promises.

Mr. HAY: The Naturalization Act as it exists at the present time does work a great hardship on many people born in foreign countries who have come to Canada and lived here many years: I have had hundreds of these cases brought to my notice in the past five or six years. I would suggest that some change be made which would enable these people to obtain their citizenship papers. I know many cases of sons and daughters of people who are not British citizens who have obtained their papers, yet their fathers and mothers are unable to become naturalized because they are unable to read or write English or French. I have known many cases where the sons of these people have served overseas, yet the parents are unable to become naturalized because they are unable to comply with the law as it exists at the present time. Many of these people are splendid types yet because, as one other hon. member explained, they have lived in districts remote from English speaking settlers, they have been unable to acquire the English language and are unable to become naturalized. Very often the judge before whom these people appear adheres strictly to the letter of the law, and as a result these people are deprived of the opportunity of becoming citizens. I would strongly urge that some change be made in the law or the regulations in order to permit these people to become citizens of Canada.

Item agreed to.

Public archives, \$63,024.

Mr. CAHAN: I am instructed by the clerk that I was mistaken in my impression that this item had passed.

Mr. RINFRET: I see a slight decrease this year, and I should like to ask if this means a lessening of the activities of the

department outside of Ottawa or whether it is a saving in the expenditures of the department in Ottawa.

Mr. CAHAN: I have not the records here, but we have had a number of deaths in the department, which may account for the reduction. As a matter of fact one lady retired, I do not know whether or not to get married, and there was one death and perhaps two. Since 1930 I have made no new appointments at all in the public archives to fill vacancies caused by death or resignation. I quite agree that public archives must be maintained, but for the present we are maintaining the department with a somewhat reduced staff. It is possible that the hon. gentleman will have an opportunity of making the nominations for these vacancies some time in the future.

Mr. RINFRET: Do I understand that this item includes salaries? If my hon. friend will look up item 23 he will find that it covers the salaries in Ottawa. I believe the item we are considering covers the expenditures of the department outside of Ottawa, and my question was whether the outside activities of the department have been diminished in any way. If the minister has not the information I shall be quite prepared to seek it on another occasion.

Mr. CAHAN: My hon. friend is perfectly right; this item is to provide for the salaries of the permanent staff outside of Ottawa; for temporary services; for travelling expenses of representatives outside of Ottawa, and for the purchase of books and manuscripts outside of Ottawa. The money for the salaries in Ottawa is provided under item 23. I think outside of Ottawa there have been one or two retirements, though there has been no forcible retirement of any kind, even under the age limit. There are several employees who come within the age limit, and in order that they might be kept on I have now an application before the treasury board asking that their services be retained for another year. The reduction which appears here must be due to some voluntary retirements, I should think.

Mr. RINFRET: I suppose this also covers the expenditures in London and Paris?

Mr. CAHAN: Yes.

Mr. RINFRET: I understand that work has not been discontinued there and that it is not contemplated that it be discontinued. I believe the department also has a correspondent in Rome.

Mr. CAHAN: That is true, and he is a very worthy man indeed.