

voted here, but we require a great deal more than that. I hope that the estimates next year will contain a sufficient amount to complete these works.

Item agreed to.

Public works—	
Salaries	\$631,520
Contingencies	75,000

Mr. WOODSWORTH: With respect to the large number of engineers, architects, and so on, I would ask whether any effort has been made to consolidate these services. I understand there are several distinct branches within the general department. Then we have also the Department of Railways and the Department of Marine all covering, more or less, the same class of work. Is any attempt being made to consolidate these staffs of engineers and architects and thus save expense?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Consolidation of the architectural and engineering branches has not worked out in practice; they are different classes of work. Although there have been reductions in the staff, experience has shown it to be essential that each staff should have the kind of officers which the work calls for. Architectural work is entirely different from civil or railway engineering. There has been a gradual reduction in the inside permanent service. In 1913-14 there were 346; to-day there are 266. The total number of positions is 319 as compared with 326, a reduction of 7.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I asked some questions with regard to this matter. I asked if it was not possible to get these grouped together and if the departments could not be consolidated. There are engineers in each of three or four departments. Is their work absolutely distinct in character?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I thought I had answered my hon. friend. Consolidation has been and is going on now in the various departments. A careful survey is being made with a view of bringing about consolidation wherever possible.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: With regard to certain men on the staff engaged as engineers and watchmen, many of whom are working seven days in the week, and some working twelve-hour days, has the minister any plan for seeing to it that these men's hours are made reasonable?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): We have been trying to work something that would give the engineers better hours and also better

conditions as regards days of employment. It is true the watchmen are on duty seven days a week. Their work is probably not very strenuous. This is a matter of cost and I have given it a good deal of consideration. It would be of advantage if we could work out some scheme that would relieve these men and give them one day off a week. We find that, as regards watchmen and firemen, this would cost probably an additional \$11,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am told that there are men who work for nine months without having a single day off. There is no justification for that kind of an arrangement.

Item agreed to.

Department of Public Works—salaries—to hereby appoint A. T. Mineau, clerk-typist at \$1,800.

Mr. SIMPSON: Is this a new appointment?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This party has been in the service since 1911. Unfortunately for him he was not appointed by order in council and he is known as a temporary. When the reclassification was made, he was drawing a salary of \$1,800, but because he was a temporary he could not retain that salary. It is only fair and just to him that this amount should be voted in order that he may continue to draw the salary that he had in 1917 or 1918.

Item agreed to.

Post Office—outside service, \$29,586,118.94.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What were the profits of the Post Office Department this last year?

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Acting Postmaster General): I shall have to look that up.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister could assure the hon. member right now that there are no profits. A surplus may be shown, but that is without taking any account of the capital cost and interest.

Mr. IRVINE: Is there in this sum sufficient money to build the Calgary post office?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is not. My hon. friend and I think very much alike with respect to the Calgary post office. If there were an item, it would be in the Public Works estimates.

Mr. LADNER: The other day when the Minister of Railways and Canals had his estimates under consideration, he told hon. members to turn their guns upon the Acting Postmaster General with respect to the mail services and the distribution through the