

Mr. MORRIS: Very good; that is satisfactory.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you are now on page 353, dealing with inspection, investigation and audit services. Are there any questions?

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DIVISION

Item No. 255—Inspection, Investigation and Audit Services\$ 4,211,855

Mr. BROOME: Is this a sales tax investigation?

Mr. SIM: An explanation of this vote is that, in addition to being responsible for some internal administrative decisions and rulings regarding the acts administered by the department, the five branches operating within this vote are responsible for: the inspection and internal audit of all customs excise ports, outports and similar offices in the field; the inspection of establishments licensed under the Excise Act—distilleries, breweries, and the like; the investigation of undervaluations, false invoices and other violations of the customs excise laws; the investigation of claims for drawback of customs duties and excise taxes; conducting audits upon the records and accounts of manufacturers and wholesalers licensed under the Excise Tax Act.

The change in the vote is due mainly to providing for normal statutory increases in salaries, a number of reclassifications and higher shipping charges. Yet we come out overall with a slight decrease in this vote over previous years.

Mr. GRAFFTEY: Does it include investigating staff, in order to determine that the department's high standards of courtesy are always upheld at various ports of entry?

Mr. SIM: It does.

The CHAIRMAN: Page 354.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): At some stage, Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise the question of the operation of the tourist exemption, and I am not sure where the appropriate place is. Perhaps it is earlier.

The CHAIRMAN: Page 354. Perhaps Mr. Sim would be able to speak generally on what has resulted from the change in the type of tourist exemption as a result of the amendments to the item last year.

Mr. SIM: As they say in the House of Commons, I am very glad the hon. gentleman asked that question, although the committee may begin to suspect that there is some collusion between the member and myself. Which I assure you, is not the case.

Mr. BELL: Between the member and one of his most distinguished constituents.

Mr. SIM: I would like to circulate if we may, to members of the committee a rather useful little pamphlet which we issued recently for the information of residents of Canada proceeding abroad and coming back, who are entitled to the \$100 exemption or the additional \$200 if they have been 14 days outside the confines of North America.

In spite of the hand-outs to newspapers and articles that appear from time to time, there is some misunderstanding as to the rights and privileges of Canadians in this respect. This is a modest attempt to deal with that. I think the brochure speaks for itself. There have been a fair number of these pamphlets issued both in English and French and they are available for members in both languages. These have been circulated at our ports of entry. As tourists are going out they are invited to help themselves to these pamphlets.

We hope that this will obviate some of the misunderstandings that have occurred, as it is always better to avoid misunderstandings, if we can, before the fact and give people all the information that is possible.