

It strikes me that when we in this House vote large sums of money in connection with material things—votes which might be very much less in many instances—we ought not to be too niggardly when we come to deal with our fellow men. I say this while at the same time having due regard to the pockets of the taxpayers. I trust—and I urge the matter as strongly as I can—that the government may yet see its way substantially to increase the salaries paid to these public servants.

Mr. SPENCER: I just wish to refer for a moment to the second lot of exceptions that the minister mentioned, namely, those concerning the senior stenographers and clerks. I notice from a memo I have in my hand that in the reclassification of 1919 senior employees were classified as senior clerks with a minimum salary of \$1,320 and a maximum of \$1,680. In 1924 they were reclassified, and the trouble seems to be that some of those who had got to the maximum were put into grade 3 class instead of into grade 4. The result is that it leaves them in this peculiar position: As many of the clerks classified in 1919 as senior clerks were debarred in 1924 from the fourth grade, they were placed as grade 3 clerks, although at their maximum of \$1,680, and in this way did not receive any assistance in 1924, being revised downward instead of upward. In 1927, they are advised they cannot receive the \$120 increase as the maximum of their class is now \$1,620, and as they stand at a maximum of \$1,680, they are beyond their class, or in other words have reached a dead wall so far as promotion is concerned. It would therefore appear that these grade 3 clerks at a maximum of \$1,680 should be placed in grade 4, or that in some way their standing should be bettered in order that they may receive the \$120. I should like to ask the Secretary of State if it is possible to place those, who, I understand, number 400, in grade 4 and give them an opportunity of an increase?

Mr. RINFRET: I touched that very point in my explanation and perhaps the hon. member will be kind enough to refer to Hansard. I suggested that they should receive an improvement by promotion, but that it would be unwise to grant them an additional increase because they are already above the maxima of their classes.

Mr. SPENCER: How are they to get promoted if they are above their maxima?

Mr. BELL (St. John): I have telegrams from letter carriers in St. John, N.B., stating [Mr. Pettit.]

that under the plan now proposed the net increase which they will receive is \$39. Will the minister kindly let me have his view as to that?

Mr. RINFRET: Similar telegrams were sent to every member and we have already discussed the matter very fully this morning. The Postmaster General has made the declaration that he will look into the matter again. Perhaps my hon. friend will now agree to let the item pass.

Mr. BELL (St. John): I was unfortunately out of the House this morning.

Item agreed to.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at three o'clock.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

Immigration contingencies and general expenses, including grants to immigration and colonization societies associations, women's hostels, as may be authorized by the governor general in council, \$1,300,000.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): My remarks will be of a more or less general character. I think it may be taken for granted that it is the practically unanimous opinion of the people of Canada who have given any thought to the matter at all that we want more population in this country, in order that the burden of our responsibilities may be spread over more shoulders and rest more lightly on each individual. But immigration is not merely a problem of numbers or a question of getting a number of people to come to Canada. It is as well a problem of the possibility and advisability of mixing old world and new world racial and cultural characteristics. It is a problem which has to do with the future of Canada and the part which Canada will play in the history of the world. It is very interesting to note that Canada's population in the last thirty years has followed almost figure for figure the population of the United States in the same period one hundred years ago. That is to say our population in 1900 was practically almost the same as that of the United States in 1800. Our population in 1910 was almost identical with the United States in 1810, and our population in 1921 almost exactly the same as that of the United States in 1820 if it had not been for the intervention of the war. In the last century the United States brought into that country from foreign lands over 36,000,000 immigrants.