Supply—Immigration—Civil Government

Mr. GORDON: I think it will be found that very little, if any, further reduction can be made. An extensive reorganization of this department took place about eighteen months ago. A great number were retired and I seriously doubt if any further reductions can be made and the necessary efficiency maintained.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I do not think the minister understands my question. Would he make an estimate of the amount of money which would be saved to the treasury out of this \$1,641,000 as a result of ex-service men having to forego either pensions or salaries?

Mr. BENNETT: Not their pensions.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Their salaries.

Mr. GORDON: No estimate was made with respect to that.

Mr. MITCHELL: I should like to ask whether the government has in mind compliance with the convention of the International Labour office with respect to the exchange of the publication of information and statistics on immigration and emigration?

Mr. GORDON: I have not sufficient material before me to answer the hon. member, but I believe the question might better be put when Labour estimates are under consideration. It would seem however that this and the preceding government endeavoured to carry out all their obligations and commitments with respect to the matter to which the hon. member has just referred. I shall look into the matter and when the Labour estimates are under review shall be glad to give any information I have.

Mr. MITCHELL: This is definitely an immigration matter. I have long felt that there should be some statistics on record concerning immigration. I do not believe it should be necessary to put a question on the order paper to learn about the flow backwards and forwards of the various nationalities. That information should be available to hon. members, and possibly could be made up twice yearly, or at some other definite period.

Mr. GORDON: Each month a statement covering the information to which the hon. member has referred is issued to the public press by the Department of Immigration, and annually a very detailed statement is printed, published and laid upon the table of the house in which all the information to which reference has been made is set out in detail.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Has the minister the number of immigrants who have left the country during the past year, voluntarily and involuntarily? I was wondering how they balanced.

Mr. GORDON: The only figures available would be with respect to cases which have come under review by the department. I do not think we have any record of those who left voluntarily.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: In other years the minister has had the information,—obtained, I imagine either from the border officials or from officials of the country to the south. From time to time reasonably close estimates have been made of the numbers who had left the country during the year. I was wondering if the Minister has such figures at hand, because these questions are asked annually, and usually are answered.

Mr. GORDON: No record is kept of those who leave the country voluntarily. I am fairly certain that the number is comparatively small.

Mr. MALCOLM: Has the minister a record of the number of Canadians returning from the United States during the past year

Mr. GORDON: A statement of that kind we get from the American authorities.

Mr. MALCOLM: Surely we keep those figures ourselves?

Mr. GORDON: I have not the figures before me at the moment, but I will get them.

Mr. MALCOLM: I submit that the figure it is difficult to get is the number of Canadians going across the border outward bound. But we do through our immigration officials have the figures of those coming in.

Mr. GORDON: Before the estimates are finally disposed of I will investigate and have a statement made.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order

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END OF VOLUME III.