

Supply—National Defence

by the motion which has just been defeated. Is it the wish of the committee to follow from now on the procedure which was agreed upon earlier?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Perhaps I should point out to the committee that the way I propose to call these items will be in the order in which they appear on page 269 of the estimates, under the various headings, the first one being, departmental administration, including inspection services and civil defence; the second one being imperial war graves commission; the third being navy; the fourth, army; the fifth, air; and the sixth, defence research and development. This is item 245 as detailed under these various headings. Is that satisfactory to the hon. members?

Mr. Drew: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Therefore, I will now call the first section of these detailed sums of item 245, appearing under the heading "Departmental administration, including inspection services and civil defence." These details appear on page 269.

Mr. Pearkes: The first detail shown under this heading is that of civil salaries and wages. I notice that there has been an increase of roughly \$1,200,000 in that item over the amount expended last year. I wonder whether we can have the details of that detail. I wonder whether the minister can tell us why it is necessary to have that large increase in the civil salaries. What are the main salaries covered? Has this amount of money been spent entirely with the headquarters here in Ottawa of the three services, or does it cover the administration in the different divisions, commands, and so forth across the country?

Mr. Claxton: The main reason for the increase is the increase in the activities of the inspection service due to the increased procurement. The staff of the inspection service is to be increased by a total of 323, the staff of the civil defence co-ordinator, for which we still provide the money, by 62. In addition, provision is made for increased rates of pay as announced to take effect as of December, 1950. The total number of civil employees in 1950-51 was 875; in 1951-52, 1,270; so that the increase is practically entirely taken up with the increased activities of the inspection service and civil defence.

[The Deputy Chairman.]

This covers civilians only, and it covers civilians engaged in civil defence, public relations and inspection services right across Canada.

Mr. Pearkes: What type of inspection service is that? Is it solely concerned with the making of equipment?

Mr. Claxton: Yes.

Mr. Pearkes: Entirely?

Mr. Claxton: Since the termination of the second world war the job of inspection, which used to be done by the United Kingdom and Canada inspection board, was assumed by the Department of National Defence for itself, and it is now carried on by an officer of the department and a staff assisting him, as well as by a number of expert service personnel. They inspect all equipment—ships, aircraft, motor vehicles, clothing, everything that we buy.

Mr. Pearkes: Do they go into the factories which are making this equipment?

Mr. Claxton: Yes, in all aircraft factories; for example, there would be continuous inspection of every part as it is made.

Mr. Pearkes: Do they also go into such organizations as dominion arsenals?

Mr. Claxton: Yes, just the same; Canadian Arsenals Limited is one of the manufacturing establishments which make and supply, through the Department of Defence Production, defence equipment, and we inspect products there in the same way as of any other producer.

Mr. Pearkes: There is, I believe, a dominion arsenal at Longueuil near Montreal?

Mr. Claxton: Yes.

Mr. Pearkes: Is there any change in the policy regarding that? I asked a question on May 4, I think, regarding a story that it was being leased to another firm. Can the minister tell me whether there is any change in the policy?

Mr. Claxton: I will ask my colleague, the Minister of Defence Production, to answer that.

Mr. Pearkes: Has there been any change in the policy regarding Canadian arsenals, and what exactly is the situation regarding the arsenal at Longueuil?

Mr. Howe: There is no change in policy to the extent that Canadian Arsenals is intended to keep a continuous nucleus for production of all the types of weapons that Canada will need in event of war. However, in a preparedness program of this type the