

Patent Act

the approval of the governor in council, to fix the fees of any proceeding not herein provided for.

Mr. Knowles: Those are the postcards.

Mr. Pickersgill: These are the postcards. The intention is to recommend these latter two increases to the governor in council, as I said, after the bill is passed. As I said, if the bill is passed. The two items are: Completing application; the present tariff is \$3; the new one will be \$5. The estimated additional revenue is about \$3,662. I perhaps should say, sir, that the \$184,000 figure I gave included these changes to be made by regulation as well as those to be made by statute.

Supplementary disclosure; the present fee is—

Mr. Knowles: That is what you are doing now.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think mine was not supplementary but simultaneous. The present fee is \$15. The new fee suggested is \$20 and the additional revenue estimated—this is a very close estimate—is \$395. If I had been doing it I think I would have made it \$400. That illustrates the point I was making to the hon. member for Kamloops a few moments ago, that some of these things are just barely worth changing, not that I regard \$400 as a very small sum.

Then, in addition to that, it is proposed to increase the price for printed copies of patents from 25 cents to 50 cents. Whether the governor in council will yield to the entreaties of the hon. member for Ottawa East and make it \$1 I do not know. I should like to consider that a good deal before proposing it, because I did a little arithmetic when the hon. member was speaking. He said that he never bought one printed patent, he always bought four. Four at 25 cents each makes \$1; four at 50 cents would make \$2. If the price were \$1 he might not even buy two. It is the kind of pricing policy that every merchant has to consider, and I will give it such consideration as I can. But I think I can assure the committee the result of my consideration will be that I shall still recommend to council that it be 50 cents. For individual copies of the patent office record the price is now 25 cents. The price for an individual copy will be 50 cents, and the annual subscription rate will be increased from \$10 to \$25. It is estimated that this increase in price will produce another \$9,000. Of course that must depend a good deal on how many subscriptions there are.

Mr. Knowles: A good many references are being made to the printing of these documents. I believe they are printed in what is

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

known as the patent record printing office rather than over at the printing bureau. Can the Secretary of State say whether the same scale of wages applies to those working in the patent record printing office as to those working over at the printing bureau?

Mr. Pickersgill: I wish, Mr. Chairman, that I had the same capacity for carrying in my head the encyclopaedic information that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has.

Mr. Knowles: You used to be in Winnipeg yourself.

Mr. Pickersgill: I used to be in Winnipeg and my memory was no better then than it is now. The printing bureau and the places where this printing is done, which after all is part of the printing bureau in the Canadian building, are under the jurisdiction of the queen's printer, for whose activities I am responsible in this house. I would not venture to say whether the wages paid in one place are the same as in the other, but I would think it very unlikely that they would not be. They have different processes. I presume there are different wages paid to people for different processes, but, honestly, I cannot answer the question, sir. However, I shall be glad to answer it when my estimates come up.

Mr. Fulton: Has the Secretary of State told us already for how many years the patent office has shown a deficit?

Mr. Pickersgill: My information is that there has been a deficit for the last three years; that is, prior to this year.

Mr. Fulton: Then, to be strictly accurate in connection with the minister's statement on second reading, this proposal is not in accordance with the government's policy; it is a revision of government policy designed to put it on a paying basis, but I think it is quite a sound one.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps I might make a brief comment on that. There was a very large deficit in the fiscal year—I had better get it right; it always helps—

Mr. Knowles: The frankness over there today is most refreshing.

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes. The year 1950-51 was the first year the printing was undertaken and the deficit was nearly a quarter of a million dollars, \$244,000 and some odd. The next year it was only \$79,000. I have the feeling that the printing was experimental the first year and it was very expensive. There was a hope that the process could be perfected and that the cost could be