

APPENDIX No. 6

By Mr. Boys:

Q. For one machine?—A. \$1,200 a year, yes. But let me tell you what it will do. We got back from overseas between the 14th February and the 31st of March 275,000 questionnaire cards, giving information as to the class of employment that each man wanted to follow when he came back, where he wanted to go, what his previous occupation was, etc., etc. By using this Hollerith machine we were able to tabulate 6,000,000 items of information, distributed over twenty-two dispersal areas throughout Canada. By employing a staff of thirty clerks whose average salary was \$50 a month, the machine has paid for itself time and time again.

By the Chairman:

Q. Do they have these machines in the statistical bureau?—A. Yes.

Q. Why cannot that work be done there?—A. Our machine is primarily in connection with our accounting system. We have an average of from 25,000 to 30,000 men on our strength. They are coming on every day, and they are coming off every day. Their dependents also receive cheques. We have to keep count of them. If you tried to do that by ordinary clerical methods we would never know where we were at. I have the operating statement on the 10th of every following month on my desk. I know what it costs me to do business. I know how much we have paid out in allowances. I know how much has gone to the dependents and to the men themselves. In other words, I know each month what we have done. If you are running a business you should be able to know where your money is going, and you cannot possibly do that unless you have the Hollerith machine on a job like this.

Q. You say it is in connection with the accounting?—A. Absolutely. Our whole accounting system is based on the Hollerith system. I could not possibly have that work done outside the department, because our records would be scattered all over the place. You have to see that the records, that is the pay list and so forth, the vital records covering the expenditure of very large sums of money are kept.

By Mr. Charters:

Q. You say that you pay \$50 a month. Do you get people to work for that?—A. We take young girls, and the man who is in charge of the statistical branch trains them.

Q. There is no trouble about getting them?—A. Not for that work because it is purely mechanical work. They do not need a great deal of intelligence.

By the Chairman:

Q. I see that you have girls of 16 and 17 in your employ. I suppose if you were directly under the Civil Service Commission you could not employ girls of that age?—A. We have considered ourselves as directly under the Civil Service Commission.

Q. I thought that under the Civil Service Commission no one could be appointed under 18 years of age?—A. The Civil Service Commission has vised every appointment that has been made. Mind you, many of our employees were carried on into our organization from the Military Hospitals Commission which was operating before the Civil Service Commission came into being.

By Mr. Boys:

Q. I always understood that the commission did not permit you to employ any one under eighteen?—A. These may be legacies from the Military Hospitals Commission.

Q. There may be special reasons?—A. Yes.

By the Chairman:

Q. A girl of 16 or 17 can operate one of these machines very expertly?—A. Quite.

Q. Particularly if she is a piano player?—A. Exactly.

[Mr. F. G. Robinson.]