

Supply—Trade and Commerce

that, with the exception of a few top positions, the salaries do not compare favourably with those paid to scientists in private industry.

Every effort should be made by parliament to provide adequate funds for the national research council so they will be able to retain the well qualified scientists they have been able to attract to the institution in the past. Anyone who served on the committee which sat three years ago, I believe it was; anyone who looked into the activities of the national research council or visited its laboratories, will agree that we are getting the most valuable service. The only criticism I would offer is that sometimes the results of the efforts of these scientists engaged in all kinds of research are kept in too restricted circles. In my opinion much of the work they do could be published in the public interest. For instance, the investigation of various instruments, or the investigation of chemical products which are used every day in our own homes—for example, detergents—would show the effect such chemicals have on cloth. Some of us were made aware of this when we saw the rags that resulted by changing from soap to detergents. All this might be publicized.

It might be suggested that this would be the work of a private organization such as the consumers' association in the United States. Canada is too small to have a consumers' association of that sort. The national research council is doing that kind of work in some fields, and I should like to see some publicity given to the results of its investigations.

What I really rose to say was that I have looked over the salary schedules of the national research council from time to time. If we look at page 380 of the details we will see that the scientific and executive staffs are not overpaid, and certainly the technical staff, where the top salary is under \$6,000 a year, is not overpaid. These useful technicians and scientists are certainly not as well paid as they should be, and that is the reason we lose them occasionally to private industry.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, I would just like to correct the impression that we do lose a great number of men. During 1954-55 some 16 scientists left the national research council; 13 accepted positions in industry within Canada. I suggest that it is a part of the function of the national research council to train men for industries in Canada, for after all that is strengthening research within Canada just as much as the work of the government. Three left the

[Mr. Coldwell.]

country to work outside Canada. Two of them were appointed to university staffs outside Canada. It is natural for scientists to try to get as good positions as possible. I think that is not surprising. Only one left to engage in industry outside Canada. I think my hon. friend will agree that that is not a great turnover.

I am told that the national research council studies the salaries of comparable positions in industry within Canada and outside Canada, and that the remuneration is on a par with that paid to scientists of their seniority.

Mr. Nicholson: In the group under scientific and executive staffs I notice there are 209 junior research officers whose salaries range from \$3,600 to \$4,500. Can the minister give us any idea how many of these have a Ph.D. degree? In other words, can the minister give us some information as to what the starting salary is for a scientist with a Ph.D. degree?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No. That would be the ordinary starting salary of a graduate from a university today. A graduate engineer starts at about \$3,000, or perhaps \$4,200.

Mr. Nicholson: Are there any Ph.D.'s in the group of 209 junior research officers which appears on page 380?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I dare say there would be; but after all a man is not paid a starting salary depending on the degrees he holds. The degrees are a help in getting on in the future, but whether a man holds a degree or whether he does not, when he enters into his lifework much depends on what he can do rather than on the papers he carries.

Mr. Nicholson: The point the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart was making was that men with comparable degrees seemed to be able to get in some instances twice as much in private industry. I have two friends, two brothers. One was with the national research council, the other one was with a private firm. Both were similarly qualified. The one with the private organization was getting about twice as much as his brother with the national research council.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Not as a starting salary.

Mr. Nicholson: No, not as a starting salary. The one with the national research council has been there for many years, and in my opinion his salary is certainly not as high as it would have been if he had gone