

Supply—Trade and Commerce

Mr. Monteith: I wonder whether the minister can tell us why the increase in the amount for the services of the corps of commissionaires. For the last two years it has been about \$2,000. This year it is up to \$10,187.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The explanation is that in earlier years it was the policy for the R.C.M.P. to pay for protection in all public buildings. More recently the policy provides that where protection is provided exclusively for one department, the cost of the protection is borne by that department. There is an increase this year in the cost to the Department of Trade and Commerce. There will be a corresponding reduction in the cost to the R.C.M.P.

Item agreed to.

443. Census, 953,002.

Mr. Regier: Can the minister tell us how soon we might have the complete census reports of the year 1951? I understand that Canada is to have a partial census taken again next year. I find the census reports to be of great value. I am just wondering how long it will be until we can have the last reports of the 1951 census?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): As my hon. friend knows if he is a student of statistics, there are many volumes of statistics and they are put out in the order of importance. I would have thought they had all been completed by now. I am rather surprised to hear that they have not been completed, but I shall make inquiries. I would say that if they have not been completed they shortly will be.

Mr. Pallett: I should like to ask the minister the extent to which the quinquennial census of 1956 will go. In other words, will it be as complete as the 1951 census? If not, what will be left out of it?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): It will be a greatly simplified census, mainly a count of the population. The important purpose of the quinquennial census is to count the population but certain important data about agriculture is also collected. Those are the two items that will be covered by the census.

Mr. Pallett: Is it necessary to duplicate the expense? What is the function of the dominion bureau of statistics? Could you not get the same information from the bureau?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): It is not possible to take a census of that kind by sample or by interpolation. It has been done in the past, but we had a demand from a number of provinces for an accurate five-year census

and we are taking it. The basic reason is that Canada's population growth has been making records. It is expected that between 1951 and 1956 the population will have increased by 2 million or more. Annual estimates can only be made with adequate accuracy for the provinces and Canada as a whole. A considerable movement of people within provinces has accompanied this rapid increase in population. For example, the area of metropolitan districts has expanded enormously. Such movements create heavy demands on municipalities and provincial governments for services such as roads, schools, waterworks, fire protection, etc. Some provincial governments provide assistance to municipalities on a per capita basis. The only way of obtaining an accurate measurement of these shifts is through a census.

Mr. Castleden: Mr. Chairman, it is now after ten o'clock.

Mr. Monteith: I have one question on this item—

Mr. Castleden: It is after ten o'clock.

Mr. Monteith:—if the minister would care to answer it.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Certainly, I would be glad to.

Mr. Castleden: Ten o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: It has been formally drawn to the attention of the Chair that it is ten o'clock. The proceedings from now on are entirely in the hands of the committee itself.

Mr. Castleden: I understand the committee can only continue by unanimous consent. Standing order No. 7.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, we discussed this last night and I said then and I repeat now that I think it is the almost unanimous desire of all members of the house that we take some extra time to consider estimates when there is apparently the prospect that they might be considered and disposed of. After last evening I spoke to the hon. member for Yorkton, who admittedly makes a point when he says we worked overtime last night and propose working overtime on Saturday; but it does seem to me that if he will give consideration to the matter he will see that it will not be possible to wind up the session within a few days—I do not want to put a time limit on it—unless we take a little more time in the evenings and extra time on Saturday.

I notice that my colleague has progressed through what appears to be a good deal more than half of the items in his estimates since