

a long time and has done very valuable work in the past. While his health to-day is not what it was some years ago, still he has hardly reached that stage where he should resign. He is still a very capable and useful worker.

Mr. JACOBS: Could he retire on an allowance?

Mr. CALDER: Yes, he could be retired under the Retirement Act.

Mr. JACOBS: I am glad to hear that his health is better.

Mr. COPP: Under "Health contingencies," there is an item of \$5,000 for clerical assistance. I judge from the details of the vote that the clerical staff is pretty well provided for apart from this \$5,000, and perhaps the minister will say what this is for.

Mr. CALDER: This is a vote that is usually taken in every department, because there may be periods in the course of the year when it might be necessary to procure help of a purely temporary character. There are times when the business of the department is more or less rushed, and it is necessary to have a vote of this kind. The custom prevails throughout the entire service, and it is merely to take care of any temporary help that is needed.

Mr. COPP: There are twenty-four clerks and other officials more this year than last year. The number this year is 126 as compared with 102 a year ago.

Mr. CALDER: The hon. member was not in the House when I explained that. There is really no increase in the number. It is simply a transfer of members of the staff who were carried on the general vote of the department. They are now transferred to the civil government list, which should have been done long ago. Where officials are here on the staff at Ottawa they should not be carried on a general vote but should be put on the Civil Service list, where they rightly belong; and we propose now to carry on the civil list persons who previously were carried on the general vote. As I have said, there is really no increase.

Mr. COPP: Has any part of the \$5,000 voted last year been expended?

Mr. CALDER: We had eight temporaries last year who were employed at salaries totalling \$5,980. I do not know whether they were carried throughout the entire year, but that was the total of the salaries that would be paid them.

Mr. JACOBS: Who is the Commissioner of United States Immigration, and where is he located?

Mr. CALDER: Mr. W. J. White has been commissioner for a good many years. He makes his headquarters at Ottawa.

Mr. JACOBS: What are his duties?

Mr. CALDER: He has general supervision of our work in the United States. He overlooks and directs all the work of the various agencies there.

Mr. JACOBS: Looks over!

Mr. CALDER: He overlooks their work.

Mr. JACOBS: He does not overlook much as far as I can see.

Mr. CALDER: Well, it all depends on what you mean by "overlook." His work is carried on entirely in the United States in supervision of our agencies there.

Mr. JACOBS: Is that at Ellis Island?

Mr. CALDER: No.

Mr. JACOBS: We maintain an office at Ellis Island do we not?

The CHAIRMAN: I must remind the committee that consideration of any matter connected with Ellis Island would come up under item 52 where there is a vote of \$80,000 for immigration in the United States. I hope the committee will allow progress to be made with the large item for salaries in the Inside Service, and the matter of Ellis island will then be in order under item 52.

Mr. JACOBS: I am asking for information concerning the commissioner of United States immigration, and wish information about it.

The CHAIRMAN: I am very sorry, but anything pertaining to the work of the Department of Immigration in the United States and at Ellis Island does not properly come up under the vote for civil government.

Mr. JACOBS: I beg your pardon Mr. Chairman, you will find on page 83, as the third item—"Commissioner of United States Immigration, \$4,500," which is an increase of \$500 as compared with last year.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is quite at liberty to ask anything concerning the duties of that official here at Ottawa, but not to discuss the matter of the office at Ellis Island.