

but the whole of that was not incurred in connection with strictly classification work; it was partly incurred in the investigation of the Printing Bureau and for work done by some employees in connection with the bonus granted to the Civil Service.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I am referring to the work done in connection with this printed book called the "Classification."

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Yes.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: It seems to me that that is not expert work. The book looks like a dictionary—

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Well, it is a dictionary.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR:—which an ordinarily intelligent man could make. The first item is "Able seamen," and it tells us that an able seaman is a man who will clean down the decks, keep the brass polished, sweep the dust away and obey the officers of the ship, and then it proceeds to state that his wages will be so many dollars a month. That description of an able seaman is not very accurate, and if a man confined himself to the duties mentioned there he would not be a very acceptable seaman. And the wages are not according to the mercantile scale, so that if the Government, which is now operating its own mercantile marine, intend to apply that first section to its own business, it will find it altogether inapplicable.

In the first place, you have to discharge your seamen, under the law, when you arrive at port, and must pay them off in the presence of a consul or other officer; then when you start your next voyage you have to employ them over again or employ a new crew. It is impossible to communicate with the Civil Service Commission in order to do that; under the law, the captain is the only person who can do it. It appears to me that the man who made this particular classification did not understand what he was doing if he intended that it should apply to persons engaged in the public service. Will the minister point out what expert work has been done in connection with this classification? Any intelligent member of Parliament knows what duties a deputy minister has to perform or what work is required of an inspector of post offices or a clerk in any Government office. All that is found in this book is simply a description of what the employee is expected to do; and I submit that in many cases the description is defective. On what principle can we justify

the expenditure of \$50,000 for the purpose of turning out a dictionary like this, which is nothing more or less than a list of employees?

Mr. P. MCGIBBON (Muskoka): We have had the rather amazing admission that practically no expense has been incurred in the gathering of information with respect to appointments to positions in the outside service in a country three thousand miles long. As members of Parliament were not consulted and are not going to be consulted in such matters, may I ask the minister how such information is procured? Are the appointments made without the obtaining of any information at all? On the other hand, is the service being made less efficient by the utilization—as I am informed by some deputy ministers—of the staffs of the departments to gather information for the Civil Service Commission? It seems to me that this commission is the supreme and crowning act of—I was going to say incompetence of this Government.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Say it.

Mr. MCGIBBON: In a country covering a territory three thousand miles in extent you exclude from consultation in respect of appointments the member of Parliament, the only man who knows who is best qualified to fill positions in the Outside Service. Then the minister comes to this House and says that the necessary information is acquired without the expenditure of one cent. On what grounds of efficiency are we to suppose that these appointments are made? I think that an explanation is due to the Committee.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The particular matter to which my hon. friend refers has been discussed so often that I had hoped it would not arise again. I did not mean to say—at least if I did say it I suppose I should not have done so—that no expense whatever was incurred in securing information in respect of appointments to certain positions in the public service. In regard to appointments to post offices—I mean in the Outside Service—The Civil Service Commission utilize the post office inspectors in the various provinces who have means of securing this information quite readily and without incurring any great expense. Possibly some of the officers of the Inspection Department happen to be travelling in a district where there is a vacancy, and while engaged in that work they can secure the best local information possible. Appointments are made largely after advertisement. The applicant