

Mr. ROBB: There are 116.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Are they temporary?

Mr. ROBB: Yes. Of this number 108 are furnished by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Are these temporary employees eligible for superannuation?

Mr. ROBB: Oh, no.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Would they be entitled to any statutory increase?

Mr. ROBB: I would not think so. We have them for from three to five months and sometimes for over a year, depending on the amount of work in connection with loans from time to time.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Of course, Mr. Chairman, it is some relief to me to know that 108 of these 116 employees have been secured through the Civil Service Commission, but I look with some suspicion upon the growing custom on the part of the department to introduce into their salary votes some little sentence such as is contained here, "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Civil Service Act," the effect of which is to take from under the control of the commission the appointment of these employees and to virtually restore the patronage principle. I think an opportunity will be provided later on to discuss this question, but I wish now to give notice that I regard with great dissatisfaction and with some suspicion the growing inclination on the part of this government to withdraw these people from the control of the commission. I think at the present time there are some thirteen thousand positions exempt from the commission's control, and the number is increasing every year; this year there is a very large increase. What is the salary of the deputy minister?

Mr. ROBB: It is \$10,000.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Was any appointment made this year to the position of secretary of the Treasury board?

Mr. ROBB: No, the deputy minister is the acting secretary of the Treasury board.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Is it proposed that any other gentleman shall be appointed secretary?

Mr. ROBB: Not now, no.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Does the position of secretary of the Treasury board carry with it an additional salary?

Mr. ROBB: No.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Then there is no truth in the rumour that there is an additional salary of \$5,000 for the secretary of the Treasury board?

Mr. ROBB: There is an amount voted, but it has never been used.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It is not the intention of the minister to use it?

Mr. ROBB: No, not now.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Is there an assistant secretary of the Treasury board?

Mr. ROBB: No. The officer before me acts as assistant to the Treasury board. The present deputy Minister of Finance has been in the department about forty years and is a most efficient officer. A man who has been in any department or trade or business for such a long time has grown up with it and knows it. The deputy minister is no longer a young man; he is entitled to retire if he wishes to. A few years ago, through stress of work and perhaps some of the worry we have referred to this afternoon, his health was not of the best. He did want to resign, but he was prevailed upon to remain, and I hope he will remain in the department. When it came to appointing a bank inspector I was told by the Banking and Commerce committee to get the best man I could find and pay him whatever salary he wanted. I tried to get a couple of men, but I did not like to go over the salary of the deputy minister. I could not, however, get a man at the salary of the deputy minister whom I thought to be fit to take the job and who would satisfy the members of the Banking and Commerce committee. I was successful in getting a man of very wide experience, who, I believe, is an excellent officer, and I had to pay him \$15,000 a year. We had the same experience when we were looking for an Auditor General. In view of these conditions I asked myself what would happen if the deputy minister persisted in offering his resignation, and I will say frankly to the committee that I put that amount in the estimates in order that the minister, whoever he might be, would be in a position to offer a salary that would attract to the office such a man as I believe should be at the head of the Finance department of Canada, a business handling over \$500,000,000 a year.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I confess it is with some relief that I learn that there is not to be an increase of \$5,000 to the present salary of the deputy minister because of the creation of the office of secretary of the Treasury board, or his appointment to that