

Mr. PATERSON. No, a special officer; first appointed April, 1895; permanently appointed in 1899.

Mr. BLAIN. Is the explanation of this increase, that a large quantity of goods are coming in from the United States under valuation?

Mr. PATERSON. There has been complaint of under-valuation.

Mr. BLAIN. The minister would not admit that last year.

Mr. PATERSON. I think the discussion last year was with reference to goods coming in under the preference. We have unfortunately found cases of under valuation of goods coming from the United States.

Mr. BLAIN. What line of goods?

Mr. PATERSON. Almost all lines, except perhaps groceries.

Mr. BLAIN. And you want two extra officers on that account?

Mr. PATERSON. We want to get fuller information.

Mr. BLAIN. Do these inspectors in the United States report to the department directly?

Mr. PATERSON. Yes.

Mr. BLAIN. Monthly reports?

Mr. PATERSON. Almost daily, and if there is any case under adjudication they may have to make a special mission.

Mr. BLAIN. How much of this item is for the twelve inspectors and their expenses?

Mr. PATERSON. Salaries, \$26,350; expenses, \$8,500.

Mr. CLANCY. Were the salaries of any of these increased last year?

Mr. PATERSON. I think not. There is one new assistant inspector, but the Department of Customs will be recouped for his services by the Department of Trade and Commerce. He was specially charged to look after importation of machinery coming to the Sydney works, some of which were dutiable and some free. He became well posted in the work, and when the payment of the bounty was transferred from Customs to Trade and Commerce, the minister was anxious to have an able officer and one conversant with the work, and it was thought that perhaps Mr. Russell would be the best fitted of any one in the public service to do that work. We, therefore, lent him to the Department of Trade and Commerce, and we will be recouped for his salary.

Mr. INGRAM. How much money will be spent for the Board of Customs and the collection of statistics, as distinct from the other services included in the vote?

Mr. PATERSON. About \$40,000 for the Board of Customs and \$45,500 for statistics.

Mr. BLAIN.

Mr. INGRAM. I cannot understand why these accounts are kept separately. At F-3. Auditor General's Report, you will find Board of Customs and statistical office, \$59,510.49, and at F-34 you will find Board of Customs and statistical office, \$74,715, or a total of \$134,259.15. What is the object of keeping these accounts apart?

Mr. PATERSON. That is the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. INGRAM. I know it is; but why should they not appear page after page consecutively, instead of having them distributed all over the Auditor General's Report in this way?

Mr. PATERSON. The accountant says our accounts go to the Auditor General separately from those of the Board of Customs.

Mr. INGRAM. Why should they not go together, so that they will be entered consecutively in the Auditor General's Report? As they appear, it is very difficult for us to gather from them what is done.

Mr. PATERSON. That is the auditor's way of entering them. Many of the officers whose salaries are entered under the head of Board of Customs are not living in Ottawa, but in Toronto, and it may be that that is the reason they are entered separately from those of the department.

Mr. SPROULE. How many preventive officers have you?

Mr. PATERSON. We have fifteen this year, an increase of three over last year.

Mr. BLAIN. For the Board of Customs, the salaries and expenses this year amount to \$30,500. The hon. minister is asking for \$40,000 for next year. Why the increase?

Mr. PATERSON. The vote includes the salaries of the Dominion appraisers at Ottawa and those of the men on Mr. McMichael's staff at Toronto, though not Mr. McMichael himself.

Mr. BLAIN. On page 3949 of Hansard we find:

Customs, 27 officers salaries, \$23,500; expenses, \$7,000.

Which makes a total of \$30,500 voted last year, but the figures the minister gives tonight is \$40,000 an increase of \$9,500, and I am asking why the increase takes place.

Mr. PATERSON. The explanation is that last year that covered only the officers in Ottawa and did not include the officers at Toronto. The salaries and expenses there are about \$10,000 but the amounts item for item are about the same this year as last.

Mr. INGRAM. Some new names have been added to the Toronto list.