

whom that item will apply to, when we reach it.

Department of External Affairs—To provide for an increase in salary to the assistant Under Secretary of State for External Affairs to \$4,000, \$425.

To provide for one clerkship in Third Division, Subdivision A, \$900.

Mr. MURPHY: Who is this assistant?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Mr. W. H. Walker. My hon. friend (Mr. Murphy) who was Secretary of State for External Affairs probably knows this gentleman's qualities as well as I do. He is a highly educated man, who entered the public service many years ago.

I have found him exceedingly diligent and very efficient. In the absence of Sir Joseph Pope, inevitable on a great many occasions during the past three years when he was called upon to discharge important duties elsewhere, Mr. Walker has fulfilled the duties of the under-secretary with marked ability. Sir Joseph Pope has brought his case to my attention on many occasions during the past three years and, having regard to the extremely important duties that Mr. Walker has been called upon to fulfil during that period, it seemed to me that I could not delay the matter any longer.

Mr. McKENZIE: Are these appointments made under the Civil Service Act?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Mr. Walker has been there for thirty years.

Mr. McKENZIE: Is this a promotion by virtue of the Civil Service Act or by special vote?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: By special vote.

Mr. McKENZIE: If the Civil Service Act is not now sufficient to cover a case of this kind, or is not sufficiently comprehensive to meet each case that may come up from time to time, I would suggest that the Act be amended. This tinkering with the Civil Service, taking a man here and there, promoting him over the head of somebody else and coming here for his salary, does not seem to be satisfactory. If the machinery of the Act were so arranged as to provide for dealing with matters of this kind in accordance with the Act it would save a good deal of trouble and would avoid dissatisfaction amongst civil servants. Of course there cannot but be serious trouble and annoyance when two or three are singled out for promotion, while a great many others are of necessity left who are looking for promotion. I would seriously

suggest to the Government that sufficiently comprehensive and workable machinery should be provided under the Civil Service Act so that the Government would not be obliged to come here for special votes to provide for special appointments:

Royal Northwest Mounted Police—subsistence, billeting, forage and dog feed, fuel and light, clothing, repairs and renewals, horses, arms and ammunition, stationery, medical stores, transport, water service, building repairs and contingencies—further amount required, \$260,000.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Before the explanation of this item is given, I would like to give the information which was asked for when a similar item in the estimates was under consideration. The inquiry was as to the number of men in the Royal Northwest Mounted Police who had enlisted for service for overseas. After the war broke out there were 56 Imperial reservists in the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and they were allowed their immediate discharge, they having been called to the colours. There were a number of applications from the members of the force to proceed to the front, or failing leave of absence, for their discharge. It did not seem expedient at that time that in these cases leave should be given. On the 2nd February, 1915, an order was issued as follows:

That any non-commissioned officer or constable who has less than three months to serve to complete his present engagement, may be permitted to purchase his discharge for the purpose of joining any contingent being raised for war services, provided he produces certificates that he will be enrolled in a contingent as above stated, if he is permitted to purchase his discharge from the police. This privilege is not to be extended to men who engaged for one year's service on account of the war.

That relates to the additions made to the force during the first months of the war whereby men were enlisted for one year instead of the usual three years. That order has never been cancelled, but it has recently been found necessary to temporarily suspend its application. One hundred and five men have been permitted to purchase their discharge, 75 of whom are known to have enlisted for service overseas and all of whom, with the exception of about six, have already gone overseas. In addition to those who have purchased their discharge, a considerable number of men whose terms of service have expired since the outbreak of the war have taken their discharge from the force, and, although there is no official record of these men having joined overseas units, the comptroller