

from time to time. If we have any suspicion in a particular case that things have got a little weak in some quarter, he goes down and looks it up. If he finds more men in one branch than can be profitably used, we slip them over to another where they can be used profitably.

Q. There is a definite policy of watching that?—A. We do that at least twice a year, and oftener than that some years.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. You have a number of land offices throughout Western Canada?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who is your chief officer in charge of them?—A. H. S. Cuttle.

Q. I think you have a number of inspectors as well.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do these inspectors report annually as to the transfer of members of a staff, as to whether the staff is over-manned, whether any additions are required and that sort of thing?—A. They report oftener than once a year, sometimes as often as four times a year.

Q. The inspectors are passing round from time to time, from one office to the other?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it is the same in the Immigration Department?—A. The same in the Immigration Department.

Q. How many inspectors are there who are checking up the work?—A. We have a travelling inspector for the eastern district, a travelling inspector for the western district, and a travelling inspector for the Pacific.

Q. And over these three you have a chief?—A. Yes, we have a chief inspector in the various districts.

Q. Do you get reports from all of them from time to time as to the staff?—A. As to staff requirements.

*By Mr. Euler:*

Q. As a matter of fact do they ever report that the staff is over-manned?—A. No, we are very careful, and we do not over-man.

Q. Conditions might change, and what is quite necessary to-day might be cut down?—A. Take the Immigration Department, that is not the case, because we are deporting more than we have done ever since I have been in the department.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. Take your land offices, how many have you closed in the last five years?—A. In five years we have closed Maple Creek, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and possibly—

Q. Did you close Weyburn?—A. Yes, we closed Weyburn, but I think, perhaps, that is longer ago than five years.

Q. You have done the same with regard to immigration halls?—A. Yes, we have done the same with them.

Q. For the purpose of reducing the staff?—A. Yes. You see the records of the old offices have to be transferred, perhaps broken up and put into two or three offices, and adding new territory always creates a little more service, and the most efficient and the old men were transferred to the new offices. Those that we cannot assimilate we simply let go.

*By Mr. Thompson:*

Q. Are men transferred from your department to other departments?—A. Yes, and from other departments to our department.

Q. What is the process there?—A. For instance, if a man wants to come to my department from any department, I consult the deputy minister as to whether or not he is willing this man should leave to come to us for a special purpose. If he agrees we have to get the consent of the Civil Service Commission for the transfer.

[Mr. W. W. Cory.]