

I received last year. Having looked into them two or three times, I find omissions, so that I do not know whether they are correct. Certainly some of them are incorrect and that is why I wish to quote them again to-night, because some of these figures will shock hon. members.

Some figures have been quoted by other hon. members as well as by myself, in which a comparison is made of different years. I pointed out, as other hon. members have done, that there has been a reduction of only some 900 in the number of these employees. I noted that there was one omission. I do not know how many others there are and therefore I got a supplementary return to-day. In the last return, March 31, 1946, there is an omission. The national harbours board had 1,890 employees, and salaries and wages paid for the month of March were \$289,429—quite a sizeable amount. This shows that, instead of a reduction of 900 from March 1, 1945, to March 1, 1946, there was an increase of 900, and an increase in wages of \$1,080,691. This does not tell the whole story. There were others in the employ of another government company which will further swell the rolls. That is War Assets Corporation. As of March 31, 1946, there were 5,413 employees. I have not the monthly payroll and so I shall have to give an estimate. What does this all add up to? It shows that, instead of the meagre reduction which I stated in the house once before, of 900, there has been an increase altogether of 6,046 employees, or a total increase in payroll of \$4,500,000 yearly. That, as I say, is an estimate. I understand that it is nearer \$5 million, but I am putting it at the smaller amount. This brings the total number of employees to 156,657, and the total payroll for Canada to \$245 million a year.

The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Abbott) this afternoon spoke about controllable expenditures. He suggested that we had controllable expenditures of something like \$200 million. But, Mr. Speaker, there is \$245 million there in the payroll of Canada. What nonsense it is for him to say that there is only \$200 million of controllable expenditures.

Not only that, but there seems to be no effort on the part of the administration to reduce rather than to increase. It means, taking an average of three in a family, that 475,000 people are being supported by the rest of the taxpayers of Canada. We cannot stand it. We have not enough people in Canada to pay these salaries. Economy must be practised, and there does not seem to be any

reason why the government should not make an effort in this direction. But no effort will ever be made by this administration which is so inept at reducing salaries.

When one considers some of the departments of government and sees increases in so many, he can only come to the conclusion that no effort is being made by the administration. Let me run through a few of them. The minister says that some moderate increases have been made. Well, I do not think the increase there up to \$245 million is moderate, considering all the other things that are going on at the present time. Take the Department of Agriculture. In March, 1945, we had 4,185 employees. I should think that in agriculture the country would need more people during the war to take care of the requirements, but we find we have now 4,606, or an increase of nearly 500. Take the civil service commission. In 1945 the figure was 586; to-day it is 713. Take the minister's department, the comptroller of the treasury. In 1945 it had 7,747 employees; to-day there are 9,232. I should say these figures are given as of March each year. In external affairs there were 340 employees in 1945, this year 625. In the finance department, another department of the minister, there were 765 employees in March 1945; there are now 827. In the mint there were 161 in 1945 and 286 in 1946. In fisheries there were 530 in 1945; there are now 620. In justice there were 1,023 in 1945; there are now 1,114.

I now come to the army, navy and air force. I shall take only some of them. Here we have the conditions which the hon. member for York South (Mr. Cockeram) described a little while ago. The air force had 12,524 employees in 1945. They have now only 5,936. The army had 16,683 in 1945, and there is a reduction of fewer than 3,000. There are now 13,701. The navy had 13,542 in 1945 and they still have 10,187 civilians in the Department of Naval Affairs at the present time. What in the world do they do with all these people? Of course, the Department of National Health and Welfare has gone away up.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but he has spoken for forty minutes.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I wanted to pay a compliment to one department.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Continue.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): The department of printing has set a good example. With all the extra work that it has had to do it had only 759 employees last year, and in March of this year it had 774. Probably they need more.