

If the landing waiter, for instance, is doing work at a railway station, he may have to go out at any hour. If there are several of them they take it in turns, one starting at seven o'clock in the morning and remaining on duty until four o'clock in the afternoon. From seven o'clock until nine o'clock in the morning he counts as overtime, and the same thing applies from four o'clock in the afternoon until six. Take the case of a man on duty at a river port, such as my own town, or Brockville; the officers there are on duty until twelve o'clock at night, on account of the ferries. They get thirty cents an hour overtime.

Mr. ROSS: The minister must have figured out the increase to be granted to each office. He speaks of an average of \$100 for each office. What is the largest increase given under this arrangement, and what is the smallest?

Mr. REID: I have to depend a great deal on the officials to decide as to the increases. One hundred dollars is the average. There will be very few who will get more than that, because it is our desire to give increases to as many as possible. In some cases where the men were getting \$750 we gave them an increase of \$150. We want to give a little more to the men who are getting the smaller salaries.

Mr. ROSS: There is a customs officer at Glencoe, one at Strathroy, and one at Park Hill, in the county of Middlesex. Can the minister tell me what salaries these men will get under this arrangement?

Mr. REID: I could not say offhand. What I am doing in this case is what I did before; the commissioner, the assistant commissioner, and the inspectors at Ottawa take up the whole list, and when they reach Glencoe, for instance, they will see what the staff there is getting, and will decide as to what increases should be granted, taking into consideration present salary, length of service, and so on.

Mr. ROSS: My reason for asking is that the minister said the increases were being granted on account of the high cost of living. I hope he will recognize the fact that it is costing more to live in the county of Middlesex than it has in the past, and that consequently all these men should get something. Can the minister tell me the largest increase that will be given to any officer? Who is going to get the plum?

Mr. REID: The smallest increase is \$50, and there are no great plums.

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

Mr. ROSS: What is the largest increase?

Mr. REID: I should say \$200.

Mr. ROSS: Who will get that, or where will it be?

Mr. REID: I do not know where it will be. Of course, an increase of \$100 a year in Glencoe would probably be of a great deal more benefit than the same amount in a large city. I think \$200 would be the outside limit of any increase, and there would be only very few instances in which this amount will be given.

Mr. ROSS: What is the salary of the present custom house officer in Park Hill, and what was the salary of his predecessor?

Mr. REID: I could not say offhand. If my hon. friend wishes, I will send him a statement of it to-morrow. The officer at Park Hill was appointed within the last six or eight months, I believe. If I remember rightly, this officer filled two positions, postmaster and sub-collector of customs. We separated the two offices because we found that the official filling two positions could not do satisfactory work in either.

Mr. McKENZIE: The minister might well anticipate questions on an item of this character. I have no intention of spreading my inquiry very widely, but I would like to ask about the towns in my vicinity, which may be, perhaps, a fair sample of what is taking place in other towns and cities. Can the minister tell me the number of officers in the customs house in the city of Sydney; the salary each is receiving; if their salaries are to be increased; and how much they will get under this arrangement?

Mr. REID: I am sorry, I could not give my hon. friend that information to-night. I have asked the commissioner to prepare a full statement showing the proposed increases, and to be fair to every person from one end of the Dominion to the other. That statement has not been submitted to me yet. If my hon. friend would like me to give him further information along the lines he has suggested, or to show him how we are dividing up this vote, I have not the slightest objection to do so.

Of course, when increases are granted, we shall have complaints from some who say that they have not received the advance they expected or from others who have not received any increase at all. If, in dividing up this amount, there are cases that we have overlooked, we will take them up