

reason or another, to-day we do not have any use for people when they are over forty-five. This is another indication that we are not absorbing the unemployed. We just do not have any use for these people.

To me all these matters indicate that there is cause for grave concern and need for the most watchful care on the part of the Minister of Labour.

Item agreed to.

119. To provide for contribution to plans for rehabilitation of unemployed higher age persons (revote for commitments \$45,200), \$295,000.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I am surprised to see that this grant should be reduced by \$385,000. This concerns people of the class to which hon. gentlemen have just been referring, who need help perhaps more than anyone else. They need to be retained, and as time goes on, Canada is going to need the services of these people. Just why has this vote been reduced by this amount?

Mr. McLARTY: Perhaps I can explain that to the hon. member. This vote is primarily predicated upon what the provinces match dollar for dollar. It does not mean that this represents the sum total of what the Department of Labour is going to do in the matter of retraining. I may add that in our technical schools at the present time we are training and retraining more than 7,200 men. This vote represents an amount which we estimate the provinces will be able to contribute dollar for dollar.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): The government are retraining these people in the higher age groups in the technical schools?

Mr. McLARTY: No, not necessarily. This is the general vote for retraining, which is paid dollar for dollar by the provinces. The dominion is doing much more in the way of retraining, but not under this vote.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Up to what age may men be retrained? For example, if the minister and I were suddenly thrown out of work, would there be room for us in the retraining scheme?

Mr. McLARTY: I am sure there would be plenty of opportunity for the hon. member for Lethbridge, but I should not like to fix a maximum age. I do not know what it would be.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): There are many people who want to give their services to the country, and who are quite capable of doing so. They should be told—and particularly those in the civil service—that the fact that a man is fifty, fifty-five or sixty-five years of

[Mr. Blackmore.]

age is not sufficient reason for excluding him. Our country needs men at the present time. We shall need the services of every good Canadian before this job is done.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I associate myself most emphatically with the hon. member who has just taken his seat. There should be no limit to the ages of people who should be permitted to give service at the present time. That rule in connection with the civil service should be absolutely and immediately abolished.

Item agreed to.

Special.

122. Amount required to provide for administration expenses generally, including salaries and travelling expenses:—

Unemployment relief.....	\$155,000
National registration.....	99,000
Youth training.....	21,500
Comptroller of the treasury.....	25,000

\$300,500

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Now that we are taking a national registration, will this amount of \$99,000 be needed?

Mr. McLARTY: This is the registration recommended by the national employment commission, relative to unemployment relief.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): It probably will not be needed.

Mr. McLARTY: We trust it will not.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

Customs and Excise divisions.

212. General administration, \$979,625.

Mr. GILLIS: For the past few years hospitals throughout the country have enjoyed exemptions from the sales tax on certain purchases necessary to their operation. There is a rumour to the effect that this exemption is to be abolished. Is that correct?

Hon. C. W. G. GIBSON (Minister of National Revenue): I have heard of no suggestion to the effect that the sales tax exemption would be abolished.

Mr. GILLIS: I have had several letters to that effect.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

40. Salaries and contingencies of the commission, \$401,930.

Mr. GREEN: Two years ago a special committee of the house investigated the operations of the Civil Service Act, and brought in its report on June 28, 1938. The last paragraph of that report reads: