

of which have been shipped to Canada, we found such goods were actually coming in at less than the cost of production. That is the reason this action was taken in respect of second quality goods, the particulars of which I tabled earlier.

Page 350—details of services, agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions on page 351—general administration?

Mr. CATHERS: I see there were two architects, but under these estimates for this year there is only one; could you tell me what an architect does in the collecting branch?

Mr. SIM: This unfortunately is something we have to do. The Department of Public Works is not in a position to supply us with all our needs in so far as buildings are concerned. We have to put up emergency structures at remote points. Public Works, generally speaking, is engaged so much in large undertakings that these small buildings are left to us to look after.

We therefore have a very modest accommodation section, including I believe one architect, but also a number of others who are quite familiar with plans and layouts. Even when a department is dealing with public works on the larger buildings, it is useful for a department to have someone on its staff with a knowledge of construction in order that the particular needs of the department can be demonstrated to the persons in public works who are finally going to assume the responsibility for the structure. I think this architect as well, if I am not mistaken, has something to do with layout to accommodate the flow of our work inside the building; the laying out of the furniture and equipment to carry on our work. So you must not envisage him as only drawing building plans.

Mr. MORE: What was the significance of the reduction of eighteen under the classification of senior customs excise checking clerk?

Mr. SIM: Mr. Chairman, in recent years, we have had a number of organization and method studies in our department. This is a fancy appellation for efficiency exports. They have done a very good job for us. We have had the benefit of two or three surveys by the organization and methods division of the Civil Service Commission. We also have organization and methods men of our own. Between them they have made quite a number of valuable suggestions. This gives me the opportunity at this time of drawing the attention of the committee to the fact that in this year's estimates this department is asking actually for a slightly less amount of money than it did a year ago. The principal reason for that is that due to these organization and method studies, our mechanical equipment and that sort of thing we have reduced our manpower and established good working standards.

I must confess we were virgin territory for this sort of operation. It has proved very successful and we have been able to save in a number of our branches. I could give particular examples of that as we go along.

Computing clerks occur to me as being one case where mechanical equipment was brought in. The computing clerks have been reduced in number, because rather than doing it in a longhand sort of way they are being provided with aids which have facilitated their work and reduced the number of employees.

Mr. BELL (*Carleton*): I do not see any other place where I might raise a question or two in regard to the Carter report. Perhaps this should be raised when the minister is present, or perhaps with another minister. Is Mr. Sim in a position to tell us whether anything has been done in regard to the present position, and the consideration of the Carter report?