

the improvement commission to continue the driveway system from Laurier avenue bridge to the post office, and this vote is really to replace the original gift from the Canada Atlantic Railway Company.

Item agreed to.

To provide, subject to the approval of the Treasury board, for salaries, reclassifications, revisions, promotions and increases, \$89,340.

Mr. ROBB: This is the usual vote for the reclassification which comes along each year.

Mr. ARTHURS: But why each year?

Mr. ROBB: Because of reclassifications during the year. Early in the year the deputy ministers submit estimates based on the salaries then current, and during the year the reclassifications in the different departments, approved by the Civil Service Commission, become effective. Those are submitted to the Treasury board. Sometimes at the end of the year the deputy ministers find themselves short of their requirements.

Mr. ARTHURS: As a rule these reclassifications have been pending for many years.

Mr. ROBB: It does not really mean more expenditure; there may be less expenditure in one department and more in another. We have to vote the item to satisfy the Auditor General.

Mr. STEVENS: It is rather an ingenious explanation that this does not mean more money. Why, we are voting more money. I would call the minister's attention to the fact that this afternoon when I asked for an explanation of the \$70,000 odd under item 390 he gave the committee precisely the same explanation that he is now giving for this item. Why should there be two items, almost identical in wording, in the supplementary estimates for this current year? Under civil government item 390 is:

To provide for authorization by the Treasury board of salaries, reclassifications, revisions, promotions and increases, \$70,692.

Item 496 reads:

To provide, subject to the approval of the Treasury board, for salaries, reclassifications, revisions, promotions and increases, \$89,340.

The wording is practically the same.

Mr. ROBB: One is inside and the other outside.

Mr. ARTHURS: What is the difference between the inside service and the outside at the present time?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: One is inside and the other outside, that is all.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. ROBB: The inside service comprises the departments in Ottawa; the outside service may include the services at various customs outports as well as post offices throughout the country.

Mr. ARTHURS: In some instances are they not all classified under one head?

Mr. ROBB: Each is under a different vote.

Mr. GUTHRIE: We ought to have this more clearly explained. The first item is 390, "civil government generally": there is neither inside nor outside service about that. That item is for the civil government of Canada, I assume. The item we are now discussing is 496, to provide for salaries, reclassifications, revisions, promotions and increases. The amount of this vote is \$89,000 odd. There must be some explanation of these two items and we should like to know what it is.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Civil government as set out in the main estimates relates to the inside civil service exclusively, and in addition to that there is the outside service, which is voted as such, although not under the head of civil government. The explanation would be that the same reason that accounts for the sum required in the one case applies equally to the sum required in the other. The Civil Service Commission from time to time make reclassifications of employees, promoting them from one grade to another, and it is impossible before the promotion is made to know what amount will be required to enable the government to pay the extra salary attached to the new grade. It is only at the end of the year that the total amount can be made up. It has been suggested that it might be advisable to have no promotions take effect except at the beginning of the fiscal year, all promotions to become operative at that time. If that were done it would not be necessary to make this request of parliament on each occasion to adjust differences that arise between one fiscal year and another.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Are we to understand that it is definitely stated that the first item is for the inside service and the second for the outside?

Mr. ROBB: As my hon. friend knows, "civil government" is generally understood to apply to the administration of the different departments in Ottawa. The other service might be in Toronto or Montreal or Hamilton.