

With the reduction in the Estimates for 1924-25 the percentage cost would approach \$2.75 even though the salaries remained stationary, but the department proposes to increase the cost of its Accounts Branch by numerous upward revisions in classification and by the addition of new positions.

The amalgamation of the Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps and the Accounts Branch would in no way lessen the efficiency of these units and would effect a considerable saving in administrative overhead and throughout the organization generally. The chiefs of both units have expressed themselves strongly in favour of the idea, the Director of Pay Services with the proviso that the Pay Corps should have the controlling interest, and the Chief Accountant on the assumption that the new organization would be essentially civil in character.

As a corollary to amalgamation the present Audit Division might with advantage be taken over by the Auditor General to obviate the duplication of work which now takes place.

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The Transfer of all Legal Officers to the Department of Justice

There are at present in the service, exclusive of the Department of Justice, fifteen legal officers employed as departmental solicitors. The annual salaries of these officers total more than \$56,000, exclusive of stenographic and clerical assistance which amount to about \$25,000. The following table gives details:—

Department	Number of Employees	Total Salaries
Customs and Excise.....	1	\$ 3,480 00
External Affairs.....	1	5,000 00
Finance.....	1	4,020 00
Indian Affairs.....	1	4,020 00
Interior.....	3	10,020 00
Marine and Fisheries.....	1	3,240 00
Post Office.....	1	3,700 00
Public Works.....	2	7,260 00
Railway Commission.....	1	4,020 00
Railways and Canals.....	1	5,000 00
Secretary of State.....	2	6,480 00
	15	\$ 56,240 00

The Deputy Minister of Justice has verbally agreed with the suggestion that these legal officers should logically be placed under that department; and that this action would very probably result in economy.

It seems more appropriate that the legal officers in the service should be controlled by the Department of Justice, and no doubt several positions would then be rendered surplus.

The Department of Justice could allocate them to departments as necessary.

One fault of the present system is that departmental solicitors may be required to do work of a clerical nature which might be performed by lower paid employees.

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The Consolidation of Engineering Services, Department of Marine and Fisheries

Prior to 1903, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Marine had responsible charge of both the maintenance and the construction of aids to navigation, and also directed such work as the removal of wrecks and obstructions from navigable waters, tidal and current surveys, hydrographic surveys, and the construction and repairing of fish hatcheries.