

Supply—Trade and Commerce

a wonderful show place for the products of the Dominion of Canada. I do feel that when these foreign buyers are present at that fair every effort should be made to encourage our own exhibitors to show there. Has the department taken any steps to encourage them?

Mr. Howe: Yes, we asked the international organizations to stimulate the idea of exhibiting at the fair. Then we did something we have never done before: we put on some salesmen. These were men such as retired bank managers, who could give some time to the matter and who were paid for their services. They knew something about business, and had the proper contact with Canadian firms to enable them to place the advantages of the fair before these firms. These salesmen did a very good job, and I think it was due to this special sales effort that this year the space taken by Canadian exhibitors has more than doubled.

Item agreed to.

Standards division—

449. Administration, including administration of the Precious Metals Marking Act, \$113,359.

Mr. Herridge: On this item, I am not sure what particular heading it is under, but under the standards division there is provision for a number of inspectors of standards. Are those men doing work in connection with the act, that is enforcing the Canada Standards Act? Could the minister give us a description of what is being done in that connection?

Mr. Howe: Yes, the work of establishing national standards is proceeding, but it must necessarily proceed slowly. We must be sure that the standard is a standard that the trade and the purchasers will accept. A number of standards have been set up, and of course we have the Precious Metals Marking Act which is also under this division. Progress is being made towards widening the number of articles that must be bought and sold under the trademark "Canadian standard".

Mr. Wright: Can the minister give us an indication of the number of articles that are now standardized?

Mr. Howe: There is hosiery, fur and fur-trimmed garments; Babcock test bottles; turpentine—I am afraid that I cannot give a full list, but those are typical items.

Item agreed to.

Dominion bureau of statistics—

453. Administration, \$167,714.

[Mr. Catherwood.]

Mr. Thatcher: So far as the Canadian bureau of statistics is concerned, on previous occasions I have said that I thought they did some very good work. In my experience as a retailer, however, I have found that they send out to various people a good deal of information which I do not think is of particular value. I have an idea, because the cost of this bureau of statistics to the taxpayer has increased from a million dollars in 1939 to \$6 million today, that they might be compiling a good deal of information which may be useful perhaps but which Canadians might possibly get along without. This is one department in which the minister might be able to cut out some of these reports which are not particularly valuable, and thus save the taxpayer some money. I should like to have some comments on that.

Mr. Howe: Mr. Chairman, I came to the Department of Trade and Commerce with very much the same idea. A very strong committee was set up to pare down the number of publications. I had thought that they had been growing. Perhaps someone wanted a report on something, and it became an annual publication. As a result of those efforts the personnel of the bureau has been reduced. In 1948 the staff numbered 1,457; in 1949, 1,418; in 1950, 1,429; in 1951, 1,323. The number of publications has already been reduced as a result of this drive that was instituted two years ago, and 56 reports have been entirely eliminated. More than 120 reports considered to be too specialized for general distribution have been transferred to the reference paper or memorandum class.

Previously, every report issued by the bureau was sent to the "all publications list", which contained between three hundred and four hundred names, the majority of whom were subscribers at \$30 per annum. Undoubtedly, many on the list received reports which did not interest them, and this led to some criticism. Reports of a technical or very specialized character, now called reference papers or memoranda, are no longer sent to the "all publications list". Those who want to receive all of them pay a special subscription price of \$15 for memoranda, and \$5 for reference papers. These are mentioned in our daily bulletin and non-subscribers must write for copies. This means that 176—that is 56 plus 120—out of approximately 500 publications examined have been discontinued as regular bureau reports. Fifty-six have been eliminated entirely, and 120 have become memoranda or reference papers.

Most of those previously receiving copies of everything we published will receive 176 less bureau reports.