

Mr. COLDWELL: I was wondering if anything had been done for those Indians? I used to spend my summers on that reserve, and I know the conditions. As the hon. member for Weyburn has said, they are wretched.

Item agreed to.

Immigration branch.

171. Field and inspectional service, Canada, \$1,178,436.

Mr. MacNICOL: Why are such amounts as those contained in items 171, 172 and 222 carried in the estimates, when immigration into Canada is almost at a standstill?

Mr. CRERAR: While immigration to Canada from other countries has largely ceased, there are still some people coming, although not very many. That does not decrease the amount of work which has to be done by immigration officials. For instance, all the people going back and forth across the international boundary line have to be passed by immigration officers. If my hon. friend goes to New York he has to pass United States immigration officers when entering the United States, and when he comes back he has to fill out a form for our immigration officers. Consequently we must maintain these inspection staffs all along the international boundary line.

Item agreed to.

Immigration branch.

173. Relief of distressed Canadians outside Canada, \$7,500.

Mr. COLDWELL: The amount in this item seems to be small. Is it sufficient to take care of the needs? I think the hon. member for Rosedale and I might have some sympathy for those who might be classified as distressed Canadians abroad. We were pretty much in that class on one occasion, in Lisbon, when we had nothing but pounds sterling and could not get Portuguese money.

Mr. CRERAR: This vote might be described as the ordinary vote to care for distressed Canadians abroad. It has been very substantially increased in the last few years, since the outbreak of the war; but the additional amounts required are secured from the war appropriation vote, because the conditions are due to the war.

Item agreed to.

Special.

Lands, parks and forests branch.

176. National parks, \$65,800.

Mr. MacNICOL: Why is this vote not included in item 142?

Mr. CRERAR: They were special projects originating under special votes of a few years

[Mr. Crerar.]

ago. I am informed that this amount is required to complete those projects, and some other similar projects.

Item agreed to.

LEGISLATION

House of Commons.

116. General administration—estimates of the Clerk, \$494,895.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I should like to place on *Hansard* a statement with regard to the administration of the House of Commons. It is very long, and I should not like to trouble the committee with reading it to-night. I should like to have it placed on *Hansard* for the benefit of hon. members. The statement is as follows:

It would be proper, I think, that at this time I should make a statement with regard to the administration of the House of Commons

Since I took office in 1940 we have made substantial reductions in the staff of the House of Commons during the existence of the present parliament. We are endeavouring to carry on with fewer employees without laying off men who have been here many years and are not entitled to pensions.

Mr. Burgess, committee clerk, whose salary was \$2,640 enlisted in His Majesty's forces on November 6, 1940, and was not replaced.

Mrs. Rutherford, committee clerk, whose salary was \$2,520 died on July 2, 1941, and the vacancy was not filled.

Mrs. McCann, whose salary was \$2,372.50, resigned at the beginning of the present session and the position was abolished.

Mr. Lionel LeBel, who assisted Mr. Crossley Sherwood, clerk of orders and notices, at a salary of \$1,825 left the service and was not replaced.

We have reduced the staff of the reading room from four to two employees. Mr. S. S. Spencer, curator, whose annual salary was \$1,680 was superannuated on the 1st of November, 1940, and Mr. Boivin, one of the reading room clerks, was appointed in his place.

When Mr. L. P. Desrosiers, of the Journals' branch, left the service, Mr. Francis Schryburt, of the reading room, whose salary was \$1,920 was promoted in his place. Nobody replaced Mr. Schryburt in the reading room where there are now only two men instead of four as formerly.

When Mr. Fortin, assistant chief of the joint distribution branch, whose salary was \$2,100, died, Mr. Harry Terry, a clerk in that branch, with a salary of \$1,680 was promoted in his place. No new man has yet been appointed to take Mr. Terry's place.