

Mr. FOSTER. No, they did not get it last year.

Trade and Commerce Department. \$6,000

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think we should have a very full explanation indeed of this. It appears to me as if we were doing nothing but creating deputy-heads, for I must confess that providing a deputy-head to look after a second and a third-class clerk and a messenger does appear to me to be running the thing into the ground. Prima facie this official will have no department of any importance to attend to. Both the Inland Revenue and the Department of Customs have similar officers. In the Department of Customs you ask for a vote for a commissioner of \$3,200.

Mr. FOSTER. The commissioner having been there before.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There is also a commissioner at \$3,200 in the Inland Revenue.

Mr. FOSTER. He was there before.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. True, but they are equivalent in all respects to deputy-heads. They have salaries equal to deputy-heads and they answer to deputy-heads. Now, I do not see on what possible ground the appointment of a Deputy-Minister at \$3,200 can be defended for the Department of Trade and Commerce. Of course, we know very little of how that is going to be worked. Perhaps the member from Brockville, now the Controller of the department, has by this time got some insight into the working of it, and can tell us something about it. It does appear a very extraordinary step indeed to create a Deputy-Minister for the purpose of looking after a department with such a staff as this. The usual result of doing a thing of that kind is that the department grows up to the deputy-minister. The usual result is that so important an officer as the deputy-head is supplied with a staff proportionate to his dignity, and the general result is that the amount swells from \$6,000 to \$16,000, and then to \$26,000 and even to \$36,000, as we have seen examples of before this. I think if we must have fifteen gentlemen here to do the work which is done in other countries by half a dozen, and a much smaller proportion having reference to the numbers of the officials, we should not also be inflicted with fifteen deputy-heads, or whatever the number may be. This matter was discussed before as to the number of deputy-heads we were creating, and I think a strong case ought to be made out before adding another deputy-head as is now proposed.

Mr. FOSTER. It is hardly fair to say that we are adding another deputy-head. The Department of Customs had a deputy head, Mr. Parmalee, and an assistant commissioner, and the Inland Revenue Department had a commissioner and an assistant commissioner, the commissioner not being named as Deputy-

Mr. DAVIES.

Minister, but being to all intents and purposes a deputy.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. And he is still.

Mr. FOSTER. And he is still. The new Department of Trade and Commerce has been created under the Act, and one of the deputies, Mr. Parmalee, has been transferred from the Department of Customs to the Department of Trade and Commerce, so that there is not a creation of a new deputy-minister. The Act contemplated that these gentlemen should continue to hold their offices during their life time if no other arrangements were made, so that when the Commissioner of Inland Revenue ceases to occupy his present position, there will be only one deputy-head and two commissioners instead of two deputy-heads and two assistant commissioners. That will be on the whole a saving, and at present there is no increase, because we have the same three men as before, Mr. Parmalee being transferred from one department to the other. I am sorry to find that my hon. friend has no higher opinion of a deputy-minister than to think he has simply to take charge of clerks. He is a very important officer.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I know he always considers himself so.

Mr. FOSTER. No doubt Mr. Parmalee will have a great deal to do with organizing the new department. The hon. gentleman will observe by the foot note that it is provided "That in case of the transfer to the department of any officers or clerks whose salaries have been provided for in the estimates of any other department—whether inside or outside service—the amount so provided shall be available for the payment of their said salaries by this department." So that, if transfers are made of duties or otherwise, and clerks are transferred in consequence, they become a part of the Department of Trade and Commerce, but they diminish by so much the department from which they are transferred. Of course the Department of Trade and Commerce is at present in an embryonic state and is to be developed or not as circumstances require, but it cannot be stated that the staff is increased as the hon. gentleman said.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What I want to know is what on earth is the Deputy-Minister to do. The hon. gentleman has not thrown much light on that branch of the subject. He has told us that the Deputy-Minister and the two commissioners replace one commissioner and two assistant commissioners, but what functions are you going to assign to the Deputy-Minister? This is a new experiment. It has involved the removal from this House of an hon. gentleman to another House, where I am told he is at present struggling with all the difficulties of engineering Government measures in a place where he has a majority of only ten or twelve to one.

Mr. FOSTER. That is all the more difficult.