

Supply—Trade and Commerce

has indicated, has made that decision, then I think they should approach this particular situation from the viewpoint of sound business people.

When we look at this statement which we have in front of us, we find that in the period 1954-55, when presumably the trade fair was looked upon as being on a continuing basis and the staff would be kept at a constant level, they provided \$138,000 in the form of salaries. In the current year, when presumably the trade fair is beginning to drop off to nothing and the staff is being steadily reduced, the estimates show \$134,000. When we come down to the other expenditures in connection with the trade fair we find such things as travelling expenses, which were \$26,800 in 1954-55, almost the same at \$23,200. We find \$55,000 in both years for publications. We find \$177,000 last year and \$182,000 this year for promotional activities, and so on right down the list.

I suggest it must be obvious that the trade fair of this year now being over, and there being no anticipated trade fair for next year, one would expect some sizeable reductions in these expenditures. I should be grateful if the minister would indicate to the house what it is proposed to do about this, because it is hardly right that he should come here and ask for sizeable sums of money which he has no intention of using.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend is quite correct. These estimates were prepared early in the year and included the usual expenditures for the international trade fair. The decision to drop the fair was taken on the 8th of June. The money will not all be used this year, but until we get the fair liquidated it is difficult to know just how much we shall require. Of course there will be some considerable revenue from the fair, which will go directly to the receiver general, but there will probably be quite a large unexpended balance of this amount owing to the fact that the fair is not being held next year.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): I have another question, Mr. Chairman. Have we not \$100,000 in the supplementary estimates in connection with the Canadian international trade fair?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): No, I understand that there is no item. I mentioned \$100,000 as being the amount that is likely to be spent in cleaning up this account, which probably is the item we would have put in had we known the fair was going to close.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): In the interest of a sound approach to government business, has the minister considered reducing his requests in the estimates for

the Canadian international trade fair? I do not know how the minister feels about it, but it gives me pause to be asked to approve estimates when I know, and have the word of the minister as well, that it is not intended to use the money.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I think it would be hardly worth while. The money is expended only under treasury board authorization, even though it is in the estimates. It can be used only for a specific purpose, for the Canadian international trade fair. No one knows just how much will be required to liquidate the fair.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): You just said \$100,000.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): That was my guess. I do not know whether that is right or not; it is out of the air. Since this is the last time the item will appear I think it might as well go through as is.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, the subject of revenue was mentioned. At the bottom of page 529 the estimated revenue during the fiscal year is shown as \$535,000. I presume the minister is now in a position to give us the exact amount of revenue yielded by the fair, or a close approximation of it.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The accounts are not quite complete, but it will be in the vicinity of \$520,000.

Mr. Fleming: No more than that?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): The fair is running at a deficit.

Mr. Fleming: Apparently you are not going to equal the estimated minimum revenue.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Space was down a bit this year. That is one of the factors that decided us to close the fair.

Item agreed to.

Dominion bureau of statistics—
441. Administration, \$238,103.

Mr. Fleming: I should just like to say a word or two about the dominion bureau of statistics. These estimates are about the only place we have to pay the kind of tribute to which some of these excellent services are justly entitled.

I do not suppose there is any government service that ranks more highly both in Canada and beyond Canada in this field than does the dominion bureau of statistics. It has been headed by eminent men who have set a standard, and on the staffs have been highly