

build this very necessary bridge between Hawkesbury and Grenville. Is it the intention to call for tenders during the coming summer?

Mr. ELLIOTT: Yes. The matter seemed of such urgency that in spite of the fact that one province did seem to be a bit backward about doing what my hon. friend from Argenteuil and I thought was their fair share, we have felt that the work should go on, and go on this summer.

Item agreed to.

To provide for payments to the railways in connection with the movements of coal—revote, \$182,721.55—\$551,985.41.

Mr. BENNETT: This is an item that I assume should be available to assist in the movement of coal from Fernie to Winnipeg. I have pressed upon the house from time to time the desirability of some action being taken because of the large number, amounting now to several hundreds, of idle miners in Fernie. They have represented that a portion of the moneys provided for the purpose of compensating the railways for a reduction of freight rates should be made available to move coal to Winnipeg. It would improve conditions in Fernie very greatly, and I should like to have some assurance that the money will be available not only for the purpose for which it was voted last year, but also to take care of the very unfortunate and difficult situation in that section.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I want to make a statement to the house on that. First let me say that we intend to continue to assist the movement of coal from the east and from the west for one year more. In addition it is our intention to apply the subvention of \$1 a ton to bituminous coal only from the mountain region—that would take in Fernie—as well as the Alberta region. In addition there will be a subvention of 50 cents a ton on briquettes from the Bienfait district of Saskatchewan, which now find a market in the city of Winnipeg. Without going into details I may say that this is being done for the purpose of relieving the very serious situation that exists in the coal mining regions in the mountains. The lignite fields have a subvention still in effect to bring their coal eastward and they do send into the city of Winnipeg about 400,000 tons. We feel that the extension of this subvention to bituminous and semi-bituminous coal will be a very considerable help, as will also the subvention extended to briquettes made in the Bienfait area.

[Sir George Perley.]

Mr. McRAE: Will the minister give an assurance that some of this money will be available at an early date for relief of the situation at Fernie?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The Fernie field can get into Winnipeg. At present there is going into that city and the eastern portions of Manitoba about 235,000 tons of American coal of this character.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous—to provide for participation in the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity into Norway, \$2,000.

Mr. BENNETT: What is this?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I understand that the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity into Norway is to be made a great international event. Certain European governments are I understand sending representatives. The government of the United States is sending two or three representatives. Our government felt it would be much appreciated by many of those who have come to this country from Norway if Canada were also officially represented.

Item agreed to.

To provide for participation in the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of the founding of the parliament of Iceland, \$6,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Why the difference, \$6,000 in this case as against \$2,000 in the other?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In regard to the celebration of the one-thousandth anniversary of the founding of the parliament of Iceland, it has been thought desirable to have three delegates attend from Canada. The event is a very important one in the history of parliamentary institutions, and it will be an international event. The government had in mind the presentation to Iceland of something of a permanent nature which would be a worthy memorial of the occasion, and I should like the house to know that next year, if the present administration is in office, some proposal along that line will be made. I hope and feel quite sure that if some other administration should be in office, it will be prepared to make a similar appropriation.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: When is the celebration to take place?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In a month or two; in June, I think.

Mr. BENNETT: Last year I made some observations in another place on this historic event, and I think it highly desirable that