

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Green: The prevailing rate employees have increases made from time to time. They are not included in the general adjustment. The prevailing rate increases are on recommendation of the Department of Labour.

Mr. Caron: Are tradesmen paid according to the rates paid union tradesmen in Ottawa?

Mr. Green: Generally speaking I believe that is the case but this again is settled by the Department of Labour.

Mr. Caron: Is it not the understanding that salaries will follow those paid to union men outside the government?

Mr. Green: My difficulty here is that this is a question of policy of the labour department, not of the Department of Public Works. Therefore I am unable to give an answer to that question. The Department of Labour recommends the rates to the Department of Public Works and we set them accordingly.

Mr. Caron: Can we get an answer when we come to the Department of Labour or can the minister get an answer for us before we finish his estimates?

Mr. Pickersgill: Could the minister perhaps prepare a memorandum and present it the next time his estimates are before the committee?

Mr. Green: This is a question which should be taken up when the estimates of the Department of Labour are under consideration.

Mr. Caron: The minister is quite sure that they will not refer the matter back to the Department of Public Works?

Mr. Green: I understand these rates have always been set by the Department of Labour. This is not a new practice. It has always been the case.

Mr. Caron: In the estimates book there is a total amount of \$191,426,540 shown for 1957-58. Has the money all been spent or does that comprise the estimates for 1957-58 as they were presented or should have been presented?

Mr. Green: That figure of \$191 million odd is the revised figure.

Mr. Caron: Has that money been spent for 1957-58?

Mr. Green: Approximately 97 per cent has been spent.

Mr. Caron: And inasmuch as no estimates were brought forward for that period that money was all spent through governor general's warrants.

[Mr. Caron.]

Mr. Green: Most of the amount was covered by interim supply passed from time to time by the last parliament. The balance was covered by governor general's warrants.

Mr. Caron: Without the estimates being discussed.

Mr. Green: They are to be brought up by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Caron: Will we have the details of what has been spent by governor general's warrants some time during this session so that we can discuss them?

Mr. Green: That is to be brought before the house by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Caron: I want to know if we will have the details before us for the amount which has been spent through governor general's warrants or the other part covered by interim supply.

Mr. Green: My understanding is that those figures will be available.

Mr. Caron: They will be furnished.

Mr. Chevrier: May I revert for a moment to the confidential reports my hon. friend referred to the other day in connection with harbour and river improvements. Do these reports cover all of the ports along the St. Lawrence? Can the minister give us some idea of the ports with respect to which a special study has been made and where it is anticipated river and harbour improvements will be carried out?

Mr. Green: In connection with these lower St. Lawrence ports the main or supplementary estimates contain substantial items for port improvements at Rimouski, Seven Islands and Sorel and in addition there are sizeable items for Pointe au Pere and Riviere du Loup. During the last winter investigations were made of harbours at Matane, Pointe au Pere, Rimouski and Riviere du Loup on the south side of the St. Lawrence as well as Chandler and Gaspé farther east on the Gaspé peninsula. In addition, of course, there have been investigations made at the lake-head, Sault Ste. Marie, Windsor, Sarnia, Kingston, Cornwall, and there may have been others.

Mr. Chevrier: Are these investigations made in the light of the new traffic that is likely to ensue following the opening of the 27-foot channel?

Mr. Green: Oh yes, that is one of the main reasons for making these investigations. We have a team go out composed of representatives from the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transport.