

the other continue. I am grateful that the minister is now able to present to a much more sympathetic audience the case that I presented before.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It depends on the minister.

Item agreed to.

Grant to Alpine Club of Canada, \$1,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I really think the minister should not have the heart to ask for this \$1,000 for the Alpine Club in the absence of the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster).

Mr. LAPOINTE: Oh, have a heart!

Mr. MEIGHEN: I recall the battle that he waged in this House year after year—waged against heavy odds and with considerable support around him—to save the suffering people of this country from this awful imposition of a thousand dollars—a thousand dollars that he saw passing from the treasury into the pockets of the rich and the powerful to enable them to enjoy the scenery of the Alps of Canada assisted by the hard earned savings of the people of this country. The hon. member is absent to-night but I know it could not have been by intention, because even this session I find that the memory of the filching from the treasury that had been done by this Alpine Club has not passed from him. I can recall well that he reminded me of it only about two weeks ago; but here when there is opportunity to save the nation from this imposition he is absent from his duty. I will not, I am sure, appeal to the minister in vain when I ask him just to let this item stand in order that the House may be treated once more to the lugubrious eloquence of the hon. member for Brome.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I also have a recollection of being attacked on a similar vote in the legislature of the province from which I come, and knowing the sympathetic mind and heart of the right hon. gentleman I am sure he will agree to allow this item to pass realizing what we have both suffered in the past in this connection.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Are none of the other critics going to speak at all?—because the hon. member for Brome was not alone.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes, he was alone.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh no, my recollection is much more intimate than that of the

Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I am sure that the hon. member for Laprairie and Napierville (Mr. Lanctot) was one of his coadjutors and I see him now in his seat.

Mr. LANCTOT: I am here.

Mr. MEIGHEN: And silent.

Item agreed to.

Seed Grain Advances—Amount required to meet uncollected portions of advances of seed grain made in the Western provinces by the chartered banks to holders of unpatented Dominion lands under the guarantee of the Dominion Government, also including commission payable to banks for collections, fees to secretary treasurers of municipalities and officers of the provincial departments of agriculture, clerical assistance, travelling expenses, etc., \$200,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I presume the method that was installed about three years ago is being continued by the minister—the method of guaranteeing the banks up to a narrow margin of interest, giving them an incentive to collect this money themselves? Also, how much of the vote of \$500,000 last year was actually spent? I know it was absolutely impossible to judge how much we should need?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Two hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. MEIGHEN: About the amount being asked this year. I think the minister will, if he has looked into the matter, be able to report to the committee that this method has saved the country very large sums of money and has proved efficient, effective, and economical, meeting the situation in every way.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I thoroughly agree with what the right hon. gentleman has said. So far as I have been able to learn it is the most economical method of dealing with the situation.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That, I presume, will be read by the critics of long ago who are absent or inert to-night.

Item agreed to.

Conciliation and Labour Act, including publication, printing, binding and distribution of Labour Gazette and allowance to correspondents, \$50,000.

Mr. McBRIDE: I do not see that there is much use in our sitting in the chamber unless we can hear what is going on.

Mr. STEVENS: The minister might give us a statement as to the progress made