

## SUPPLY

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Power in the chair.

Ottawa—Rideau hall—alterations, improvements and furnishings, \$50,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman, when six o'clock was called I was on my feet and about to move an amendment to this item. I beg leave to move, seconded by Mr. Evans:

That the item, "Rideau hall—alterations, improvements and furnishings, \$50,000," be reduced by \$40,000.

As we were leaving the chamber, one of my Liberal friends jokingly suggested that I was following the lead of the Conservatives. In regard to the very elaborate furnishings of Rideau Hall I am inclined to think the Conservatives are following the lead of the Labour party, because for several years we have protested against the extravagant expenditure in connection with the office of the governor general. For some years past that expenditure has been steadily climbing. The other evening we were discussing a very heavy expenditure, of an extra \$150,000, to provide for completing a residence at the citadel at Quebec.

It is only a few years ago, in 1924, that we had an item of nearly \$43,000 for governor general's cars. Altogether during the last ten years in connection with the Department of Railways and Canals on account of governor general's cars we have spent more than \$100,000 and I understand that a very heavy expenditure is contemplated this year, has in fact been made and will later be presented to the house. The figures in connection with the upkeep of Rideau hall for the past ten years are as follows:

Fiscal year	Amount
1917-18 . . . . .	\$75,579 49
1918-19 . . . . .	59,994 72
1919-20 . . . . .	61,985 46
1920-21 . . . . .	69,981 38
1921-22 . . . . .	81,906 12
1922-23 . . . . .	94,425 12
1923-24 . . . . .	94,426 64
1924-25 . . . . .	96,067 42
1925-26 . . . . .	99,344 34
1926-27 . . . . .	128,560 72

That makes a total for the ten years ending 1927 of \$862,271.41. With the comparatively small item of \$26,374.32 for governor general's quarters at Quebec citadel, there has been a total expenditure in the ten years for the residence alone of the governor general of \$888,645.73. We thought last year we were almost at an end of repairs, additions and furnishings, but this year we have before

[Mr. Speaker.]

us an item of \$50,000 and there appears on the next page—I do not know why the items are separated—the following item:

Rideau Hall, including grounds, improvements, furniture, maintenance, etc., \$60,000.

That is, for these two items alone—and there are many others—we are asked to vote \$110,000 this year. That will not provide for the ordinary expenses of maintenance. There seems to be no limit to this kind of thing. We may give some little latitude to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Public Works, both of whom are bachelors in their enthusiasm for house furnishing, but those of us who have had something to do with furnishing our homes might think it almost time to call a halt in the kind of furnishings and the elaborate scale on which they have been offered. I want to give only two or three items to afford the committee and the country some idea of how this grant has been spent in the past and how doubtless similar grants will be spent in the future. From the Auditor General's report for the year ended March 31, 1927, part V, page 16, I take the following items in connection with materials, supplies and repairs for Rideau hall:

Hobbs Hardware Co., London, Ont., coffee pots, \$330; coffee sets, \$235.50; cream and milk jugs, \$550.80; flat dishes, \$518; forks, \$795.83; hot water jugs, \$142.50; knives, \$591.75; salvers, \$193.50; spoons, \$879.83; sugar basins, \$205.20; tea pots, \$261; tea sets, \$219; toast racks, \$189; sundries, \$169.38 on account sundry supplies, \$7,684.24.—Total, \$12,965.53.

The next item is:

Smallman & Ingram, London, Ont., 82 pr. blankets, \$1,038.95; carpet, 654 yds., \$5,929.81, sundry, \$948.25; 24 comforters, \$504; 187 pr. curtains, \$777.15; 146 yds. damask, \$657; 16 doz. doilies, \$288; 421½ yds. linen, \$1,992.25; 442½ yds. lining, \$442.25; 24 luncheon cloths, \$672; 40 yds. repp, \$170; 2 rugs, \$1,260, \$601.25; 36 pr. sheets, \$781.50; table linen, \$1,285.50; 48 doz. towels, \$459.60; sundries, \$1,457.80.—Total, \$19,265.31.

And the third item is:

Accounts under \$1,000: billiard table, \$851.28; clocks, \$292; electrical work, \$170.16; erection of birch stairs, \$400; hardware and plumbing supplies, \$803.97; house furnishings, \$1,051.09; lumber, doors, etc., \$1,600.08; marble and tile work, \$519.60; radiola, \$362.50; pianos, Nordheimer, \$540, Knabe Grand, \$1,650, less \$750 allowed for old one; sundries, \$1,433.42.—Total, \$8,924.10.

I have ventured to read these items simply because I think the people who pay for these things ought to know the extent to which we are furnishing Rideau Hall. I had rather thought that having done all that last year—and things were in pretty good condition before we began doing it—we might have had some cessation of this expenditure. We have