

Ways and Means

indicated, and when they feel that they have to appear before an appeal board which is selected from the very men who ruled on their cases in the first place? Where is the possibility of justice? I suggest to the minister that something must be done. I will not undertake to suggest what it ought to be, but something certainly must be done to give our men something like a fair chance.

One more thing I should like to say, and it comes as a result of what I have read before, regarding Harvey and some of these boys. Apparently there is a demand on the part of somebody in the Canadian pension commission which has caused the doctors all down through the organization to threaten men who have been veterans, and who find themselves in such circumstances as have been described, with punishment if they write to their member of parliament. Have we got to the point where it must be conceded that in this country, when a man dons the king's uniform and risks his life for the welfare of the state, he thereby forfeits his title to his citizen's rights, that he no longer has the right to communicate with his member of parliament, that he is in effect disfranchised, as it were? And must he be looked upon as an offender if he writes to his member of parliament, and from that time forward be subject to all sorts of petty meanness and discrimination, even to the extent perhaps of being locked in a padded cell *incommunicado*? Have we got to that point? Some hon. members laugh. Well, the members who laugh would be simply appalled if I were to give evidence of a man who spoke to me three days ago, whose word would never be questioned, and who told me exactly what had been threatened him because he had asked for the milk which his doctor had prescribed in the hospital in which he was taken care of. That sort of thing must cease to be.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Mr. ABBOTT moved:

That towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending

[Mr. Blackmore.]

March 31, 1949, the sums of \$781,658,186.63, \$197,067,420.89 and \$10,100,000, respectively, be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Abbott thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 399, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1949.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2.

Mr. KNOWLES: Mr. Chairman, may I say just a word in connection with this section. I am not forgetting that three or four hours ago I told the house that I did not plan to say anything more today, but there has been called to my attention a press dispatch which I should like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Finance. It relates to one of the items in schedule A to the bill. This clause 2 is the clause that validates schedule A, hence my speaking about this matter now. Last evening, in one of our many discussions about the plight of superannuated civil servants, the minister told me and the house once again that he felt the government should not be asked to do something which private employers are not doing. My hon. friend the member for York West has made an interjection which indicates that he knows the report which I have in my hand, issued by the Canadian Press, under yesterday's date-line, which I am quoting from today's *Ottawa Journal*, to the effect that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is giving a small supplement to its pensioners in the lower brackets.

This house knows very well my complaint against the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in the matter of pensions. This house knows the score on behalf of many of my constituents which still has to be settled; yet even that company, which I have castigated in this house many times, is now recognizing the plight of its pensioners in the lower brackets. As a matter of fact, the company is making a shameful admission in recognizing that it has employees on pensions of \$30 and \$40 a month. At any rate, all credit to the company for this gesture; it is providing a