

my hon. friend so eloquently treated, yet I say that as long as this Conference deals with only practical questions, as illustrated by my hon. friend this afternoon, I will find no fault with it. But when constitutional changes, radical, organic changes in the relationship existing between Canada and the Mother Country are broached, I as a Canadian say "Halt!" Canada has her own constitution, her own responsible Government, she is a nation in the British Empire and she is not ready to sell her birthright for a mess of pottage. We are British subjects but above all we are Canadians, we wish to assert our Canadian nationality and our Canadian rights and nothing can be done by the Prime Minister or his colleagues in any Imperial Conference to bind Canada for the future unless such projects have received the full sanction of the Canadian Parliament which should be backed by the Canadian people.

Railways and Canals—Miscellaneous—Canadian Government Railways, \$4,000.

Mr. BUREAU: May I ask the Minister of Railways and Canals by what time we are going to sit. It is twelve o'clock by present time.

Mr. REID (Grenville): We are working by standard time.

Mr. BUREAU: Yes, but we have to live by daylight saving time. Our life and our work will not agree. If we want to do good work we want to make our work agree with our life.

Mr. REID (Grenville): We do not intend to ask you to sit late but just to pass a few items that are not contentious, in order that we might get into another department.

Mr. McKENZIE: I do not think it is advisable to get into another department.

Mr. REID (Grenville): That is all I am asking for.

Mr. McKENZIE: It is not a question of time, but there are certain rights that we wish to reserve, and I think it is advisable to finish with this department first. If the Estimates of the President of the Privy Council are not through we might deal with some more items but I do not think we should go into any other department.

Mr. ROWELL: There is the item:

Canadian War Mission and representation at Washington. \$50,000.

Mr. BUREAU: I do not think there are a great many members in this House who know what the Canadian War Mission is.

[Mr. Lemieux.]

We would like to have some explanation of this item.

Mr. ROWELL: If my hon. friend wishes to allow the matter to stand I have no objection.

Mr. McKENZIE: I think it would be more satisfactory.

Mr. ROWELL: It is an item that involves an important principle and will stand some discussion.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Would my hon. friend give me some information when we come back to this item? Has there been any correspondence exchanged between this Government and the Imperial authorities with regard to representation at Washington?

It was a question some years ago whether Canada should not have a commissioner at Washington. I remember that at one time—I violate no confidence in stating this—Sir Wilfrid Laurier had intended to appoint a gentleman of very marked ability and of high standing as commissioner at Washington, having the same status as our Canadian Commissioner at London. The proposal did not eventuate, but later on I heard, and it was reported in the press, that Sir Robert Borden had intended to appoint Sir Douglas Hazen, as Canadian representative at Washington. I, for one, would have been pleased to see Sir Douglas Hazen as our representative at the American capital. Has the proposal fallen through, or does the Government intend at some date in the future to carry it out?

Mr. ROWELL: With reference to the last suggestion of my hon. friend, touching Sir Douglas Hazen, that is a matter upon which I am not in a position to give any information. In regard to the question of having a Canadian representative at Washington, the Government does intend to carry out the proposal, and this item in the Estimates is to make provision for it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: For a permanent representative?

Mr. ROWELL: For a permanent representative at Washington. The exact form which that representation will take is a matter of consultation between the Prime Minister and the Imperial Government.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The item reads, "Canadian War Mission and representation at Washington."

Mr. ROWELL: The intention is to continue the present Canadian War Mission in existence until the arrangements are