

year, and the charge against the appropriation was for the month of February and March. The item for public printing and stationery is in connection with the unusually large number of documents that had to be printed, arising out of the many matters coming up in the House of Commons that could not be foreseen at that time.

Then there is an item with respect to pensions and national health, which the hon. gentleman did not mention. In these cases it was the custom formerly to issue governor general's warrants, but in this instance it was known and perhaps should have been stated that the estimate would not cover the expenditure. The reasons given by the officials of the department as to why the previous administration had made these expenditures by governor general's warrants, before the house met, are very excellent reasons; that was done in order to lessen the expenditure. In this instance, however, owing to the severity of conditions, the appropriation was not nearly sufficient, and the passing of legislation is involved in order to provide for this large sum.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Is that for the ordinary payment of pensions?

Mr. BENNETT: No; there is a surplus under the estimate with regard to ordinary pensions, as the Minister of Finance will disclose at the proper time. This represents provision made for necessitous pension cases, and the amount varies from year to year. It was known that the expenditure would be in excess of the estimate, and this was provided for previously by governor general's warrants, for reasons I need not mention since the hon. gentleman who has just spoken was a member of the previous administration.

Mr. VENIOT: Is it still done by governor general's warrants?

Mr. BENNETT: No. The next two items result from the unfortunate exchange position, which could not readily have been foreseen. Our contribution to the League of Nations, if my memory serves me aright, is payable in Swiss gold francs, and it required this extra sum to make good the exchange required to make the payment. With respect to the other item of \$3,000, while there was a surplus under the Paris vote it was not sufficient by \$3,000 to take care of the exchange situation.

The item at the top of page 3 is one which I should not have thought the hon. gentleman would mention. This represents an obligation placed upon the country by reason of the guarantee of bonds to the extent of

\$19,500,000 for the Montreal harbour commission, there being no limitation placed in the statute.

Mr. VENIOT: I just asked if this could not have been done in another way.

Mr. BENNETT: Outside of the \$875,000 with regard to pensions the total supplementary estimates amount to less than \$200,000, of which \$35,000 is represented by exchange operations. This leaves less than \$165,000 required by way of supplementary estimates for last year, and over one-half of that sum is represented by the printing of reports and proceedings and so on of the commons and senate. I think if the hon. gentleman looks through the records he will not find a similar case for many years. There has been no accumulation to carry forward to another year. At the proper time my hon. friend will find that millions of dollars less than the estimates were expended during the last fiscal year.

Mr. VENIOT: I hope the right hon. gentleman will be able to keep up that record.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure my successor will be able to do so.

Item agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS

Loan to harbour commissioners of Montreal, with interest at a rate to be fixed by the governor in council, for such period and upon such terms and conditions as the governor in council may determine, and to be applied in payment of deficits resulting from the operations of the Montreal harbour bridge—further amount required, \$22,400.

Mr. COOTE: Will the Prime Minister give us some information about the cost of this bridge as compared with the estimated cost? Has any investigation been made with regard to the large increase which I understand is shown in connection with the construction of that bridge?

Mr. BENNETT: The estimated cost of the bridge as given in this house was \$6,000,000, and the guaranteed bonds are \$19,500,000. The report of Price, Waterhouse & Company indicated how the money was expended. It was expended for the construction of the structure, for the purchase of real estate and for the payment of fees, commissions and inspections in connection with the construction of the bridge. I do not think that at this particular time I can give the hon. gentleman a history of the matter, for I have not the papers with me. Suffice it to say that it has