

the nation in time of peril should be remembered, that that was a distinguishing feature between Rome and Carthage and that one had perished and the other had survived. In this instance the endeavour has been made to vote the grant as though the grant were being made at the end of the war to the deceased general himself, and therefore it is payable to his estate. I am informed that it will be utilized for the purpose of purchasing an annuity for the widow under the direction of the executors. As a matter of fact I believe that has already been arranged. The balance of the estate to which she is entitled will with this amount ensure the widow a reasonable annuity for the balance of her life. It is purely a technical matter that it is being dealt with in this way. I think the principle of paying annuities to those who are the survivors of distinguished persons is one which this parliament has hesitated to adopt. I know now about twelve or fifteen judges' widows who think they should receive an annuity. We have acted upon another principle, and hence I thought it desirable to make this short statement to the committee because of my absence the other evening.

Item agreed to.

Expenses of the royal commission on price spreads and mass buying (governor general's warrants of July 30, November 3 and December 19, 1934), \$155,000.

Mr. HANSON: Mr. Chairman, I wish to give the following information to the committee. The total cost of the price spreads committee while it was a committee was \$196,783.51, and while it was a royal commission \$217,889.15, making a grand total of \$414,672.66. There may be some accounts for printing which have not yet come in and not included in this amount. These figures are given by the comptroller of the treasury.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The minister was asked the other evening, and stated that he would inform the committee how much was paid to the auditors.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have that detailed up to a certain date. Up to March, Clarkson, Gordon, Dilworth, Guilfoyle and Nash had been paid \$27,238.21, and there was an account for \$5,994.52 outstanding; F. A. Nightingale had been paid \$1,655, and expenses of \$136.41, or a total of \$1,791.41; Fred Page Higgins, \$23,520.65, and expenses \$2,011.39, or a total of \$25,532.04; Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, \$6,235, and expenses \$1,583.80, or a total of \$7,818.80, and there was an account for \$1,908.40 outstanding. That is all the information I have with respect to the auditors.

Mr. DONNELLY: When this committee on July 3 was considering this item the Minister of Trade and Commerce was asked how much money had been collected from tax evaders as a result of the price spreads investigation. He said that he did not know exactly, that he had heard only rumours but he understood that a considerable amount had been collected. I understand that during the past month the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Revenue have both been asked the same question, and they both told us that no money whatever had been collected.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They did not say that.

Mr. DONNELLY: At page 1655 of Hansard of March 12, 1935, the Minister of National Revenue was asked this question:

Have any sums been collected by the income tax department as a result of revelations before the price spreads and mass buying commission, and if so what is the amount?

And the Minister of National Revenue replied:

I am informed that the answer is no; no amount has been collected.

That was the answer of the minister. Many Conservative members are going about the country telling of the huge sums of money which have been collected, more than sufficient to pay for the cost of the investigation. I think we should know whether or not any sums have been collected. It has been stated that the MacDonald Tobacco Company and the Canada Packers Limited have paid large amounts in income taxes which would not have been paid had this investigation not been held. If the minister has any information in this connection I should like to have it. I should like to know if he has any information about the rumours which have been going about.

Mr. MATTHEWS: I know nothing about any rumours. Perhaps the hon. member is confusing the recent rise in prices with—

Mr. DONNELLY: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. MATTHEWS: We examined the evidence given before the committee and the commission and we went to the trouble of distributing this evidence to the different local inspectors of income tax for further examination and report. So far as I am aware no additional revenue has accrued as a result of the inquiry although up to date all inspectors have not reported.