

in 1928 it may not be adequate for present requirements, but \$2,000,000 is almost three times the \$700,000 in 1928, and this is being asked for when the heaviest strain on the printing bureau is over. In the economy which the people of Canada are demanding to-day, we believe that they will demand much greater economy in the printing bureau than we have seen in the last six or seven years, and when that economy is brought into effect it should cut down the necessity for such substantial advances. I believe that, before asking us to raise this \$700,000 to \$2,000,000, the minister should give a full explanation why such an increase is required.

Mr. MARTIN: My hon. friend, may I say with great respect, is confusing what I had to say about competitive bidding with the bill before the committee. This proposal to raise the advances to the king's printer from \$700,000 to \$2,000,000 has nothing to do with competitive bidding. The king's printer is not only the king's printer but the supplier to all departments of government of their stationery requirements, such as inks, paper, machines and other supplies. This amount of \$2,000,000 does not represent an expenditure of money. It is part of a revolving fund. It is an advance to the king's printer of money which he must have in order to meet current obligations. Otherwise he would get himself into the same position he was in when the auditor general had to point out that he had spent more money than he was authorized to spend out of the then revolving fund. I repeat, it is not an expenditure. It is simply a fund out of which the king's printer is able to pay for stocks and supplies which he must hand out to the various departments of the government in return for which at a later date he receives payment from the departments concerned.

Mr. BOUCHER: I appreciate that this is only working capital; but in view of what the minister has said of the king's printer farming out such a great quantity of work to private enterprise, and since the amount that he can farm out without competitive bidding has been increased from \$500 to \$2,500, and since we have passed through the period where there was such a strain on the king's printer, I think we should be careful about increasing these advances from \$700,000 to \$2,000,000 when there is such a demand for economy and the cutting down of expenses in this country. Certainly raising from \$500 to \$2,500 the value of the work which the king's printer can hand out without competitive bidding at least lends itself to a lack of economy.

[Mr. Boucher.]

Mr. McIVOR: It does seem a big increase from \$700,000 in 1928 to \$2,000,000. But I would ask the minister, by how much have the general expenses of the labour department, say, and some other departments, increased in that period? As we extend our work we have to pay for it. What I rose to ask, however, was whether the linotype operators or typesetters of the king's printer belong to the civil service?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. McIVOR: Are they eligible to join a union?

Mr. MARTIN: Yes.

Mr. KNOWLES: And most of them are members.

Mr. MacNICOL: Should there not be four words added after the word "requisitions", so that the sentence would read:

... for the execution of orders given or requisitions made under the provisions of the act, and to pay the wages of workmen engaged in the execution of such orders or requisitions the established union rate.

Mr. MARTIN: With regard to wages paid men who work in the office of the king's printer, the wage paid is the average of the wage paid in the cities of Montreal and Toronto. An adjustment was made last fall. There is a periodical revision and the last revision was made at that time.

Mr. MacNICOL: Where you farm orders of the king's printer around the country, are the men engaged in printing in the smaller shops assured the average union rate?

Mr. MARTIN: They are paid the prevailing rates.

Mr. MacNICOL: If the Department of Public Works lets a contract for the erection of a building it is stipulated in the contract that the men engaged in the work are to receive for all trades the standard established union rate.

Mr. MacINNIS: I understand that the printing staff are all what we call prevailing-rate employees; that is to say, they get the prevailing rate in that particular trade in localities surrounding Ottawa.

Regarding the point raised by the hon. member for Davenport, my understanding was that in all contracts let by the government there is a fair wage clause, and that would also mean the prevailing wage for the particular kind of work where government work was being done. Did the minister indicate that that was not the case in regard to these contracts?