

hinges on it that if Canada is ever going to take its place among the nations of the world our great mineral resources must be exploited in accordance with the very best methods. I realize the handicaps the minister and the government are under, because I know that in times past this House has voted substantial sums for this purpose, which have never gone through. I ask the minister to promise us that next year he will put a sum in the estimates, say two or three millions of dollars, for this purpose, and let him for once throw himself upon the tender mercies of the opposition, if he cannot get his own party to help him, and see if we cannot assist him over that last hurdle.

Mr. MALCOLM: I think my hon. friend must have been out of the chamber when I made my statement at the beginning. I said we were making plans to bring down a substantial estimate next year; I warned the House of it.

Mr. McGIBBON: What does, "a substantial item" mean?

Mr. MALCOLM: It will be sufficient for the first year.

Mr. McGIBBON: I do not think anything less than two or three million dollars will be substantial, and I will back up the minister in such a proposal.

Item agreed to.

Prince Rupert elevator site, \$165,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Is this to pay for the site on which the elevator now stands?

Mr. MALCOLM: Yes, it is a revote. The amount is payable from the Dominion government to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, now the Canadian National Railway.

Mr. BENNETT: This is the property which is leased for \$100 per year, including the site?

Mr. MALCOLM: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: And the elevator is built upon railway property. Now it is being turned over to the elevator company, and the \$165,000 is a bookkeeping item?

Mr. MALCOLM: Surely.

Mr. BENNETT: And the rental is \$100?

Mr. MALCOLM: Yes, it is rented to the pool for \$100.

Item agreed to.

Mail subsidies and steamship subventions—Vancouver, B.C., and the British West Indies, steam or motor service between, \$36,000.

[Mr. McGibbon.]

Mr. GARDINER: Is this a new subvention? If so, what are the particulars?

Mr. MALCOLM: This is a new subsidy, one of the best arrangements we possibly could have made. It is only costing us \$3,000 per month, and is probably one of the cheapest foreign subsidies we have been able to secure. It has been backed up by all the industrialists of Vancouver because it is giving the shippers of that city an opportunity to take advantage of the West Indies market. We are shipping very great quantities of canned goods, lumber and other products from British Columbia to the West Indies, and we are very glad to recommend this appropriation to the committee.

Item agreed to.

National Defence—memorial to those citizens and residents of the United States who enlisted in the Canadian forces and lost their lives in the late war, \$10,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like to know what this item is about.

Mr. RALSTON: As the particulars show, it is for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the citizens of the United States who enlisted in the Canadian forces and lost their lives in the late war. A memorial is to be erected in the Arlington national burying ground in the United States—the national soldiers' burying ground.

Item agreed to.

To provide for the purchase of rural mail boxes, \$35,000.

Mr. McGIBBON: I take this opportunity of asking the Postmaster General if he has decided on a type of rural mail box and if he has awarded the contract for the same?

Mr. VENIOT: No, I have not. I expect within the next five weeks to be in a position to begin the distribution of some of these boxes.

Mr. IRVINE: I would ask the Postmaster General if he has decided to give us a rural mail route from Rimbey to Lockhart in my constituency?

Mr. VENIOT: I could not say from memory. I know that we have quite a number of applications, and I feel that western Canada should get a little more attention than it has got in the past in the way of rural routes. That is why there is a vote of \$35,000 in the supplementary estimates. That will give us about 27,000 boxes.

Mr. McGIBBON: I should like to congratulate the minister on his action in this regard.