

respect to the smaller motors the officials of the department are not prepared to make the experiment. I do suggest that the minister this season might yield to the urgent demand of those who live in the community and try the rate which has been suggested, as an experiment to see how it will affect the revenue. I do not believe there will be any added cost, for the power is there and might just as well be utilized. If the minister will try that experiment certainly I shall be entirely satisfied; for I had intended, if we had been in the place that he is now in, at least to make the experiment during this year.

Item agreed to.

To provide for a contribution to the government officers guarantee fund and to authorize the establishment and administration of such fund including payments therefrom in accordance with regulations prescribed by the treasury board and to authorize payment of interest on such fund at the rate prescribed by the treasury board, \$20,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I ask whether anything can be done in the near future in connection with social insurance? I am thinking now of the present act having been declared *ultra vires*, and I should like to know what will be the next step taken by the government.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The officers of the Department of Justice at the moment are carefully studying the opinion given by the supreme court, and the Minister of Justice is also giving thought to the matter. I think later he will make a recommendation to his colleagues with respect, possibly, to further consideration of the *intra vires* or *ultra vires* of the measure by the privy council. Pending that time the organization already effected with respect to social insurance will be maintained, and nothing will be done to prejudice in any way what has been established. More than that I do not think I can say at the moment.

Item agreed to.

To provide for expenses of the royal commission on the textile industry, including honoraria as follows:—A. S. Whiteley, secretary, \$1,000; Robert Rene, assistant secretary, \$350; Gordon E. Hooper, adviser on tariff matters, \$500, \$100,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This is a very large expenditure. Does it include the \$20,000 covered by governor general's warrant, or is it exclusive of that sum? Can the minister say what it is costing per day to operate this commission?

Mr. DUNNING: The \$20,000 is to recoup unforeseen expenditures already made. The cost per day is rather difficult to give, but I

have some information which may have a bearing upon the matter. It is estimated that a total of ninety days' reporting will be required. The judge, of course, gets no salary; he gets a per diem allowance for expenses. Counsel fees and so on are estimated to require, all told, \$38,000 or thereabouts, and travelling expenses will be about \$2,000. For auditors and accountants the cost will be approximately \$10,000, and for an economist \$2,500. Then there are a number of small items, including \$3,500 for printing the report and certain honoraria which are mentioned in this item to civil servants who are working on that particular job. There is also a miscellaneous item of \$6,000. That will give a rough idea as to the cost of the commission.

Item agreed to.

To authorize payment of the insurance money under policy No. 16736, written under the authority of the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act on the life of Percy William Roper, to Maggie Amanda Roper, notwithstanding the provisions of the said act, \$1.

Mr. BENNETT: What is this item?

Mr. DUNNING: This is a curious case, Mr. Chairman, and I should like to give the particulars.

Mr. BENNETT: The only difficulty is as to why the sum is \$1.

Mr. DUNNING: I think I can only explain it by reciting the facts of the case. As I think my right hon. friend knows, there are certain provisions of the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act under which the Minister of Finance has to give a decision with respect to the disposition of the insurance. In this case—I suppose I can mention the name, since it appears in the item in any event—the assured under the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act named his first wife, Maggie Amanda Roper, as beneficiary. He obtained a divorce in the United States, if my memory serves me aright, and remarried. Both the assured and his first wife were advised by officers then administering the act that the second marriage could not be recognized and that the first wife must remain as the beneficiary of the insurance. The first wife, therefore, continued to pay the premiums and did so until the death of the assured. Later, however, the pension commission recognized the divorce, and therefore the first wife is ineligible to receive any benefits.

When the matter came before me I thought it was very unjust that the first wife, on the basis of an assurance given years ago by responsible officers, should continue to pay