

Act which is practically the same as the first part of this section?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Then, why do you repeat it?

Mr. OLIVER. So that it shall be clearly understood in this Act under what terms the registration shall be released.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. As I understand, the Northwest Irrigation Act provides that any one who wishes to carry on irrigation works may acquire the right to cross lands by simply giving notice, and that notice, when registered in the land titles office, operates as a right. After the Minister of the Interior declares that the right to carry on these works is forfeited, we go one step further and declare not only that the rights shall be forfeited, but that the registration shall be cancelled.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If I understand it correctly, by serving a notice you create an easement for the purposes of irrigation, and the right to absolutely determine the irrigation grant in respect of which this easement is created already exists in the Department of the Interior?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And this is to give the Department of the Interior the same power over the easement that it has over the irrigation grant, and to deal also with the registration?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Section agreed to, Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—THE SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. FIELDING moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. GEORGE FOSTER (North Toronto.) Mr. Speaker, before the House goes into Committee of Supply, I want to call its attention to a matter which I brought up on Friday last, and which I then intimated to the Minister of Finance I would bring up again on Monday. There has been placed on the table, after the House has been in session for about six months, an estimate which totals up to almost \$14,000,000. That is a little more than one-sixth of the total very large estimate for the year. It has not been possible for us to enter upon the discussion of these estimates until to-day. It is proposed, that if possible, this House shall finish its labours within a very few days; at least that is the hope, that is the assumption; and pressure comes from all sides to effect that end. Under these circumstances, my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who leads the government will see and will quite well know,—because he has made most vigorous

protests against cases far less flagrant than this during his time in opposition,—that there can be no such thing as fair or efficient criticism and discussion of these items. The matter would be somewhat different if another consideration did not obtrude. Many of these items are exceedingly large, and some of them mean the introduction of entirely new policies, policies which if authorized now will not end with the estimates of this year, or even with the yearly repetition of the amounts which are found here, but which, from the very nature of the case, tend to grow and to involve larger expenditure. Now, as I said on Friday—and I hope I did not say it in too strong a way—there has been no time within the last four months—no extended series of days, at least—in which one of these matters, the militia policy, might not have been introduced in this House, discussed and passed upon. But, for one cause or another, not to be understood by the unsophisticated persons on this side, but possibly quite clear to hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, that very subject, initiating a most important policy and fraught with grave results for the future of this country, is left unproposed and undiscussed until the closing hours of the session. In the Department of Agriculture new policies are propounded, or extensions of policies are proposed which run, in prospect, into very large expenditures, the needs for which may well be very carefully considered by this House.

Now, see what we are asked to do in merely going over these estimates. We are asked to take up a set of estimates which occupy 24 pages, which have in them 150 main items, and which involve the voting of no less than \$13,414,973.45. It may be said that 150 items are not very many. Well, they are fewer than 200, fewer than 500, fewer even than 1,000. At the same time, 150 is a very considerable number of main items for this House to discuss and criticize. But this only tells a little part of the story. These main items are divided, and many of these subitems deal with separate cases of expenditure. I find, in cursory examination, for instance, that there are 98 items to be discussed under public works—capital and revenue expenditures. When you come to harbours and rivers, there are 213 items. One cannot but feel joy at the recent discovery of ports and harbours, and of important national waterways, which, up to the present time have smiled in the sun or have glided along on their way to the ocean unnoticed, but which, in these later days have been lifted from their native obscurity to the attention and favour of this government. And in no province has discovery been more prolific or more extended than in the province of Nova Scotia. There are 91 separate items for harbours and rivers in the province of Nova Scotia. There are 63 for the—I suppose we must assume smaller—province of Quebec,