

because I am guessing at it—the government is compensating some of the employers for contributions to this fund. We ought to know who the employers are and the reasons why the government should contribute. It is an extraordinary vote. I do not recall having seen anything of this kind before parliament, although there may have been such cases. As I say, the money was paid on governor general's warrant two days after the dissolution of parliament. I think it is really asking a little too much to ask that we should pass this item blindly, without any explanation.

Mr. DUNNING: As I understand the situation, certain of the pensioners, partially incapacitated men, are employed by corporations and industries in various parts of the country. The employers co-operate with the pension board in that regard, but each employer in a province where a compensation board, a provincial institution, exists, is levied upon for his employees, and in the case of these pensioners, who are taken in as a national service by the employers, there is a vote, I think in the Department of National Defence, for the payment by the federal government of the workmen's compensation assessment with respect to such partially disabled men. It so happens that these supplementaries should have appeared in the estimates at the time of the last session of parliament. They are dealing with the fiscal year 1925-1926; hence the lack of preparation. But the matter happened to arise in going through the estimates before the Treasury board. This is an amount which is not easily calculable when estimates are made up.

Mr. STEVENS: All right. May we have the file laid on the table in this case?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Item agreed to.

To provide for additional outlay in connection with fighting fires in the Canadian national parks (governor general's warrant of December 3, 1925), \$18,500.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The explanation of this item is that with respect to forest fires we had one of the most disastrous years in the history of the country and we were about \$18,000 short in our estimates.

Item agreed to.

To meet the cost of the salving of the H.M. G.S. Armentieres, (governor general's warrant of December 3, 1925), \$40,000.

Mr. ROBB: This is to meet the cost of the salving of His Majesty's ship Armentieres.

[Mr. Stevens.]

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): What was the value of the vessel?

Mr. ROBB: If my hon. friend will refer to the public accounts he will find the cost price.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): There would not be much sense in paying \$40,000 for a vessel only worth \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Item agreed to.

To cover expenses in connection with the prosecution of an alleged combine in the distribution of fruit and vegetables in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (governor general's warrant of January 6, 1926), \$60,000.

Mr. STEVENS: I am not criticising the vote, but very large sums were spent in connection with this case. It was a very noted case. Certain very large fines were collected. Personally, I would be satisfied if the minister would give us the particulars of this warrant, and, in addition to that, if the minister would lay on the table a statement of the total cost, to whom paid, and also as to the collection of the fines and to whom the fines were paid. Were they paid to the province, to the various cities, or to the Dominion exchequer?

Mr. ROBB: Perhaps it would be more in order if my hon. friend would move for a return.

Mr. STEVENS: No, the Finance minister misunderstands me. I am not asking for any large return. I do not want to go to that trouble, but here we have an item of \$60,000. There are a great many instances other than this, but I ask merely for a general explanation of this item, giving the totals. Then there is the question of the fines. As I have already intimated, I think there was one fine of \$125,000 and several other fines of \$25,000 apiece. Could we have a statement showing whether those fines have been paid or not? I heard a rumour that some of the fines have not been paid. There was an intimation that some of them were remitted. Whether that is true or not I do not know. If the minister would give us a financial statement of the case, which is perhaps one of the most noted cases that we have had in recent times, it would be sufficient.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is a departmental matter.

Mr. HEENAN: I will lay a statement on the table.