

POST OFFICE

670. Post offices, including salaries and other expenses of headquarters and staff post offices and supplies and equipment for revenue post offices—further amount required, \$1,234,720.

Mr. BURTON: I do not wish to delay the passing of this item, but there is something I wish to say that I could not say on the regular estimates. It will be recalled that it was only a few months ago that we passed estimates for all the departments, and I would have thought that a department like the Post Office would have been able to get much closer to its requirements than it evidently did. This supplementary vote is for \$1,234,720. This seems to show that they did not use good business judgment in preparing their estimates, and I would suggest that when their estimates come up they try to get a little closer to their requirements for the year.

Mr. MacKINNON: The Postmaster General is unavoidably absent this afternoon, but one of his senior officials got in touch with me and furnished me with a very good explanation of the point just raised by the hon. member. I would suggest, however, that the explanation be deferred until the main estimates are before the committee.

Item agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS

Chief engineer's branch—

676. Dredging—British Columbia and Yukon—further amount required, \$62,000.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What does this mean? I see that there is also an item for new construction. Does that mean a new dredge?

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): We have purchased from War Assets Corporation "gate vessel No. 5" for use as living quarters in connection with the double shift for dredge No. 305.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Buy another and put on three shifts.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Golding in the chair.

Mr. ILSLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain

expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1946, the sum of \$4,938,873.32 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Ilsley thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 12, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1946.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Golding in the chair.

Sections 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I move that the house do now adjourn. My hon. friend who is leading the opposition will probably ask about the order of business on Monday. Monday is private members' day, and the order will be private bills, senate amendments to public bills, questions, notices of motions, public bills and orders, government notices of motions, government orders.

If the house will allow me a few minutes, I should like to say a word about private members' day. I do so in the expectation that what I am about to suggest may be taken exception to by some hon. members. I would call the attention of hon. members to the desire, already strongly expressed, that we should proceed rapidly with the business of the house so as not to have the session prolonged unduly. If hon. members will look through last year's proceedings they will find that one of the reasons why the business was so considerably delayed was the length of time taken in the discussion of private members' resolutions; a length of time wholly out of proportion to the importance of the resolutions in relation to government business. The British house has found it impossible to get through important public business and at the same time have any private members' resolutions.

I have before me the British *Hansard* of last session, and at page 133 of August 16, 1945, I find the following resolution:

The Lord President of the Council (Mr. Herbert Morrison): I beg to move,

"That during the present session:

(1) Government business shall have precedence at every sitting;