

profitably discuss this matter; but I wanted to draw the attention of the minister to it, because I think we all desire that the men who want to go on the land should be placed on the land they select as quickly as possible.

There is another item here of \$2,000,000 for Dominion lands and parks. This is similar to items that we have had to vote at different times for the purpose of relieving the situation in the West, where the farmers have been suffering from unfavourable weather conditions. I do not know whether my honourable friend is in a position to tell us to what extent the money voted in the past has been paid back into the treasury of the Government, or whether this \$2,000,000, and I presume the further amount of \$450,000, which appears on the last page of the Estimates, will eventually come back to the Government. This is a considerable amount to pay out, and I presume the Government will endeavour to provide that in future years, when things are progressing more favourably, the men who get assistance in this way shall, as far as they are able, pay back the money into the treasury.

There is a further item of \$25,000, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Canadian delegates and advisers to the International Labour Conference at Washington. I understood the Minister of Labour the other day to say that so far this Conference has not been able to do very much business because it was awaiting the arrival of delegates from Europe. I have not seen any statement as to what has been done; but from the fact that this item appears in the Estimates I presume that the Government considers that this Conference, if not now proceeding, will proceed within a very short time, and that some definite conclusions will be arrived at. The questions to be dealt with there are of great importance, not only to Canada, but to the whole world. One important question that the Conference has to deal with relates to the hours of labour in different countries. I have been wondering whether the delegates who went to Washington from this country have had an opportunity of discussing this question among themselves. I have also wondered what position the delegates from Canada will occupy in regard to other questions that will arise. Have the delegates representing the business class, the labouring class, and the farming class, decided what line of action they will take? If not, I do not think there is very much hope of the various representatives coming to any very definite conclusion, because they will be approaching the

subjects from different points of view, and, on account of speaking so many different languages will have difficulty in grasping each other's point of view. If my honourable friend can give us any information regarding this Conference I think it would be of great value to the House.

The other items in this Estimate are of an ordinary nature, and are more or less connected with expenses that have been incurred by the calling together of the present session.

I would again refer to the fact that in incurring these expenses, and in voting these large sums of money, we are putting additional burdens upon the people. A member of the Government in another place the other day made the statement, if I understood him correctly, that we would require a very large sum, I think some \$700,000,000, for the purpose of carrying on the business of the country. When one considers that our population is not very much more than 8,000,000, that is an enormous amount. At the present time the Government is trying to raise \$300,000,000 by way of a loan in this country. We of course hope they will be successful; but if the statement made by a minister in another place is accurate, the Government will very soon have to go to the country for another loan, unless they intend to raise the additional amount by way of taxation. The ex-Minister of Finance, before the committee of the other House dealing with the question of the soldiers' civil re-establishment, said that the Government could hardly hope to increase taxation to any great extent, and that if they did so they would be placing upon the shoulders of the people a burden which might be heavier than they could bear.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House further than to express the hope that the Government will restrict expenditure in every possible way, so that we may look forward to a more economical and more careful administration of the finances of the country in the future.

Hon. J. G. TURRIFF: Honourable gentlemen, I notice an item of \$276,000 for the reorganization of the Printing Bureau. I understand from the press that this amount is largely for the purpose of giving retiring allowances to employees who are being dispensed with. I would suggest that the Government see that none of those who have been drawing salaries for the last five to twenty years, and who for years at