

British and foreign news service—additional amount required, \$16,000.

Mr. HANSON: This is the vote to Reuters, is it not?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Mr. HANSON: The minister voluntarily struck out a portion of that item when the main items were under discussion. I should like to inquire in regard to the change of heart.

Mr. ROBB: I am glad my hon. friend brought that up. Objection was raised to the vote by hon. gentlemen opposite when it was brought forward. I said "Very well, if it is not agreed to by the House I will reduce it." I did reduce it, and the next day some of the hon. members on the front benches on the opposite side who had opposed the item came to me and wanted it restored. They recognized that it was a fair way of sending Canadian news around the world, and I think I am restoring it with the consent of both parties, who recognize the value of it for advertising purposes.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Would the minister state more in detail how this service is carried on?

Mr. ROBB: The statement I have before me is very lengthy. Perhaps I can give it to my hon. friend in brief form, because I made the contract with them some years ago when we subsidized Reuters. They gather the news themselves through their representatives in Canada. That news is cabled to the head office. It is distributed sometimes by cable and sometimes by mail service to all parts of the world on general items affecting Canada, so that we feel that it gives Canada publicity in all countries where Reuters have agencies.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: They have entire discretion?

Mr. ROBB: Oh, yes.

Item agreed to.

Adjustment of war claims—Secretary of State—further amount required, \$8,672.18.

Mr. STEVENS: While we are on that vote will the minister tell me when we may expect some definite report about the adjustment of these war claims.

Mr. RINFRET: I think I may confidently tell the committee we may have a report next week. I will not pledge myself that it will be a complete report, but there will be some progress made.

Mr. STEVENS: Will that report show claims approved for payment and will payment be made within a reasonable time?

Mr. RINFRET: The House will have to determine what way payment is made, if any payment is made at all. But the commissioner will make his report on the great number of cases before him.

Mr. HANSON: Is this item to pay the salary of the commissioner?

Mr. RINFRET: Yes, and travelling expenses.

Mr. HANSON: How much has it cost the country to date under the various commissioners who have been in charge of the commission? I know there have been three.

Mr. LAPOINTE: They are all New Brunswick men.

Mr. HANSON: Yes, and they worked very well; I am not complaining about that. But the point is, why should not the cost of the adjustment of the claims be borne out of the money in the hands of the custodians? Why should the country be put to this expense?

Mr. RINFRET: There might be a balance when everything is adjusted that will go back to the treasury, and that will meet my hon. friend's demands.

Mr. CLARK: Will the report show the names of the individual claimants whose claims have been adjusted?

Mr. RINFRET: I expect so, yes.

Item agreed to.

Mulgrave and Canso—steam service between—additional amount required, \$10,000.

Mr. HANSON: How much are they getting now?

Mr. ROBB: The amount now is \$13,500.

Mr. HANSON: And this will make \$23,500.

Mr. ROBB: Hugh Cann & Son of Yarmouth had the contract for this service and provided a daily service, except Sundays, between Mulgrave and Canso, and for some years Hugh Cann & Sons Limited have received a sum of \$13,500 per annum for the service. Reports however were made to the effect that in order to develop the fish business at Canso it was necessary to obtain a larger vote, and also to reduce the charge from the old rate of twenty cents per hundred pounds to six cents per hundred pounds. Arrangements were then made with the Lovat Steamship company for a three months'