

Supply—Finance

items 678 and 679 were determined; that is the amount of grant to meet the cost incurred as the result of fire—

Mr. Abbott: Are we going to try to pass this item? We are on item 676 at the moment.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I beg your pardon. I thought they were all together.

Mr. Abbott: We could take them all together. I should be happy to do that. I have no objection.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am sorry; as I say, I thought they were all together.

Mr. Abbott: It is all right. Go ahead.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thought those items were all under one heading.

Mr. Abbott: They are four separate items.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would ask the minister the basis upon which the determination was made for the authorization of the advance to the city of Rimouski and to the town of Cabano. In asking that question I immediately say that there is no suggestion of any criticism; for I come from a province that on more than one occasion has received assistance from the dominion as a whole, when drought and difficulty struck our people. It is in items such as this that we indeed show that no matter from what part of the country we come there is a comradeship that demands assistance by all Canadians. I know that there will be no criticism anywhere in this dominion of the assistance being given to Rimouski or Cabano, for people everywhere regarded those two disasters as deserving the assistance of the dominion as a whole.

Having regard to the report received from the province of Manitoba, I think the minister should be in a position to answer that one request made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre with respect to farmers in the area of the Red river. I believe that some sixty per cent of the area affected will not be farmed this year, and the provisions of prairie farm assistance cannot and will not compensate in any way the farmers resident there for the loss that they will have suffered. I feel that the people as a whole—

Mr. Knowles: Unfortunately, there is no mention of that in the Shaw-Carswell report.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I appreciate that fact. But I feel that consideration should be given to assisting the farmers affected by that flood. The Prime Minister was in Winnipeg. He visited the scene of the disaster. I know that the farmers there are asking for consideration. When I speak of the Red river, I know whereof I speak; for my fore-

bears were driven out of there in 1826, in the famous flood of that year. That is a long while ago, but none the less it indicates that this area is subject to floods which are disturbing in their intensity; and I feel that the farmers there deserve consideration by the government, even though it is not recommended in the report.

Mr. Abbott: I expect that the Manitoba government, which has the responsibility, will take those circumstances into consideration.

Mr. Knowles: There is no sign of it yet.

Mr. Abbott: I think I am right in saying that crop damage was not the subject of compensation in connection with the Fraser valley floods of 1948.

To reply to my hon. friend's first question, the amount of the grant to Rimouski and to Cabano was arrived at on the basis of the report of the joint dominion-provincial commission composed of Brigadier Theriault and Mr. Laurent and is a matching grant with that which is being made by the provincial government of Quebec. Broadly speaking, that is the basis upon which it was arrived at.

Item agreed to.

At six o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair and the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

VACANCY

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Dominion of Canada House of Commons
To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons:

I, Georges-Emile Lapalme, member of the House of Commons of Canada, for the electoral district of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, do hereby resign my seat in the said House of Commons, for the constituency aforesaid.

Given under my hand and seal at Ottawa, this 23rd day of June, 1950.

G. E. Lapalme

L. R. Beaudoin, M.P.

Witness

Jean Lesage, M.P.

Witness

Accordingly I have issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

PRIVATE BILLS

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING

The house in committee on Bills Nos. 223 to 234 inclusive, 238 to 248 inclusive, 253