

through them like lightning—in many cases, if not in the majority, without consideration or discussion. They will not and cannot exercise control. So the provision in the Bill in that regard is not worth a snap of the fingers.

Hon. Mr. COPP: My honourable friend asserts that the Minister of Finance and other Ministers are overworked and cannot handle this thing, and we all agree with him. But the Bill reads, "The Minister of Finance shall cause an accounting record to be maintained." It is not necessarily to be done by the Treasury Board; it may be done by a committee or a commission or a body of men whom he selects to represent the Finance Department, which assumes responsibility for these expenditures. The Minister does not act in person. I quite agree with my honourable friend that great care should be taken to see, so far as possible, that every dollar is properly spent. There will of course be a certain amount of wastage; nevertheless I agree that every effort should be made to prevent it. I think this Bill provides that such an effort shall be made. I take it for granted, as I think we all should, that the Minister of Finance has assumed this responsibility and has a committee or body of men or experts to look after the control in the very way my honourable friend suggests.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: The House of Commons last session appointed a committee to investigate every war contract entered into by the Government with individuals and corporations. That committee sat throughout the session and during the greater part of the recess. It was reappointed this session and has been continuing its work. I think it may be assumed that, that special committee having gone into war expenditures very extensively, and having to report its findings to the Commons, the treasury is pretty well guarded.

Hon. B. F. SMITH: With reference to the committee just mentioned by the honourable senator from St. Jean Baptiste (Hon. Mr. Beaubien), a great deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed because the committee held its sessions in secret and many important things were never disclosed to it. I think my honourable friend will agree that such a committee could not effectively look after the interests of the people of Canada with respect to such expenditures as are covered by this Bill.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: One word more to make myself clear. I am not referring to accounting or auditing at all.

Hon. Mr. KING: I know.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I am referring to control over expenditures that are not necessary. Let me give an illustration. It has been represented to me that a large sum of money has been provided for removing a rock in the Seymour Narrows—

Hon. Mr. KING: Ripple Rock.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: A rock that has been there thousands of years. If my information is correct, the cost of this work is to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of three or four hundred thousand dollars. Did you ever hear of such nonsense in your life? Do you mean to say a board of sensible men would permit an expenditure of that kind in these days? Well, I should say not! That is the kind of thing I am aiming at; not the ordinary, everyday expenditures of Government in connection with the war, but the extraordinary expenditures that are being made at this time in large amounts. I say an effective control should be placed upon that class of expenditures.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

## LOAN BILL

### SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING moved the second reading of Bill 96, an Act to authorize the raising, by way of loan, of certain sums of money for the Public Service.

He said: By this Bill the Governor in Council is authorized to raise money (1) to pay or redeem the whole or any portion of any loans or obligations of Canada; (2) to purchase unmatured securities of Canada; (3) for public works; (4) for general purposes. The main purpose for which it is intended to use moneys to be borrowed is to pay off securities of Canada which mature or are callable within the next year or two. Moneys borrowed under the authority given by the Bill may also be used for public works and general purposes by the Government of Canada. It is to be noted that the proceeds of the sale of securities issued under this authority have to be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and can be paid out of that fund only under parliamentary authority.

The amount to be authorized is \$750,000,000. The Loan Acts of 1931, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1939 and 1940 have all authorized the borrowing of \$750,000,000. There is no particular magic in that amount. In fact it would