

Mr. FISHER. No. It is just as much a part of the work for which the vote was taken as the purchase of medicine or the appointing of an additional member to the staff if that were necessary. The vote was for maintenance and equipment of the station and the launch was required towards that end.

Mr. BLAIN. Under that idea the minister could appropriate the money voted for almost anything connected with the quarantine station?

Mr. FISHER. That is what the money is voted for.

Mr. BLAIN. It seems to me that it is straining the matter to purchase a launch out of a general vote without explaining it to the committee.

Mr. WILSON (Lennox). What is the total vote for the quarantine service?

Mr. FISHER. For the current fiscal year \$130,000 is voted and we find it necessary to ask for \$25,000 more. Last year the total expenditure was \$138,000.

Mr. HAGGART (Winnipeg). Some time ago when we were considering supplementary estimates, under the vote for exhibitions I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about the Winnipeg World's Fair, and he stated he would like to see the First Minister before answering. The right hon. gentleman is now in his place.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The question put by my hon. friend is as to whether or not the government has come to any conclusion on this subject?

Mr. HAGGART. (Winnipeg). Yes.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have to inform my hon. friend that the government has not come to any affirmative conclusion upon this matter.

Mr. STAPLES. When the right hon. gentleman returned to Winnipeg from the west, a special delegation—I do not know whether it was political or non-political—had a long interview with the Prime Minister, and would the right hon. gentleman have any objection to tell the House what he told that delegation with respect to this necessary appropriation for the World's fair. I believe the Prime Minister asked the province of Manitoba to put up two and a half million dollars on the understanding that if they succeeded he would supplement that with an equal amount. I believe that the delegation that waited on the Prime Minister have made provision for their share of the contribution, and surely the Prime Minister is prepared to carry out his promise.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have a very distinct recollection that I met my hon. friend (Mr. Staples) in the west, but I do not remember that we ever talked over this matter. At the interview I had with regard to the exhibition I do not remember that I saw the hon. gentleman, and the information he has on the subject must be from hearsay. I have had so many interviews upon that subject that I do not know to which he refers, but I have no distinct recollection or vague recollection or any recollection at all that I committed myself or the government to the plan proposed.

Mr. STAPLES. I base my statement on a newspaper report which I am satisfied I could produce.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Possibly.

Mr. STAPLES. It gives a full report of what took place at the interview in question.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have no doubt my hon. friend could get a report of this interview, but I shall be obliged to dispute any report which goes to show that I made a promise to the effect referred to by my hon. friend.

Mr. HAGGART (Winnipeg). Would it be asking too much if I asked the Prime Minister when we may expect the government to come to a conclusion on that question?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It is not too much to ask, but it is another thing to answer. I may say that personally I am very favourable to the idea of having an exhibition, but whether that exhibition should take place in 1914 as was suggested to me is a question that requires consideration. I do not know when my hon. friend may be able to have an exhibition, but I hope he may have it some time in the not too distant future.

Mr. SPROULE. It is important that the government should come to some conclusion a long time in advance so as to give a fair and full opportunity to the western people to make the necessary provision for such a large undertaking. The only reason why the minister might be reluctant to come to a decision is that he might not be there at the proper time to carry it out. That may be a good reason, and if so, we shall have to wait until the decision is made by some one who will be there.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I am afraid I cannot allow this discussion to continue. There is no item before the Chair. It was only by courtesy that the hon. member for Winnipeg was allowed to bring the matter up.