

THE SENATE

Wednesday, April 7, 1926.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of Bill 14, an Act for granting to His Majesty a certain sum of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1927.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: May I ask the Postmaster General if among the Estimates, of which this is said to be one-twelfth, there is any sum providing for a grant to the strikers in the Winnipeg Post Office in 1919?

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: No.

Hon. RUFUS POPE: Honourable gentlemen, before we proceed with the third reading of this Bill I desire to express my opinion with reference to the power that is being usurped by the Government of the day. I understood in reply to my inquiry last night that if we were to pass this vote of \$15,000,000 odd it would apply to each and every branch of the Service for which money will be voted in the Main Estimates. Therefore if I were to offer no objection, my action might be interpreted as meaning that I was in sympathy, at least to the extent of this \$15,000,000, with the maladministration by the so-called Government of the Dominion of Canada to-day. I would not like my position to be misunderstood for a moment. I have belonged to the Liberal-Conservative party all my life, and, with the permission of this House, I would say that I have been fortunate in my inheritance. I have believed that by adhering to it for the balance of my days I might be able through the channel of that organization to render some service towards perpetuating Canada as a nation giving some permanency to its institutions. Therefore I would not like to have my position misunderstood.

A government is supposed to be an organization possessing sufficient power to carry out the pledges made by its members to the people of the country at a general election, or to promulgate policies along those lines, as time and events may justify, during the four years of its existence. We all know that the Prime Minister of to-day, before going to the

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

far-distant and northern clime from which he has recently returned, made an announcement at Richmond Hill, in which he told me and everyone else in the Dominion of Canada, as I presume he had told the Governor General, that because he did not possess control of the House of Commons it was impossible for him successfully to administer the affairs of Canada. Therefore he went to the people of Canada asking them to give him control of the House of Commons in the name of the Liberal party, of which he was leader. He went forth, as I say, and asked the people of this country to sanction and endorse him. It is not necessary for me to take up many minutes of the time of this honourable body in pointing out that he did not get that endorsement; and one does not have to be a student to realize that if he was weak in the House of Commons during the Parliament that he dissolved last autumn, he is far weaker in that House to-day. Further, it is not difficult to prove that the majority of the electors who voted for a single party at the last election voted not for the Liberal party, but for the Liberal-Conservative party led by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen. That is the fact. As for the Progressive element, which numbered some sixty odd in the last Parliament, to-day it numbers only 27 members, including all the various stripes and colours of Progressives, Labourites and Nationalists. I have lived all my life in the country, and I have witnessed many auctions and have read many auction bills enumerating the goods to be sold to the highest bidder; but never in my life have I seen a more perfect specimen of an auction bill than the Speech from the Throne which was submitted to us this year, and which evidently was dictated by those divisions which go to make up the majority of from three to nine upon which the Liberal party is dependent.

Under these circumstances, if we are to place any confidence in the word of the Prime Minister at Richmond Hill, we cannot anticipate any degree of stability of government from the present aggregation. If it was true before the election that the Government could not carry on successfully, it is doubly true to-day when it is dependent for its majority upon three or four men who fail to rise when God Save the King is sung. I am not in favour of voting one cent, either by way of interim Supply or otherwise, to be expended by such a government; and I want it to be thoroughly understood that so long as the administration of the affairs of this country is in the hands of this sort of people the Senator from Bedford refuses to sanction