

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, the Senate has already voted Supply for the first three months of the year ending 31st March next. Corresponding monthly sums have been used by the Government of the country under special warrants since the Supply voted by Parliament was exhausted. The Supply that is now asked of this Chamber covers the four remaining months, December, January, February and March. This Bill comes to us under very exceptional conditions. Two Governments have had occasion to move for the granting of this Supply. The Bill was introduced by the King Government, and it was moved to Committee by Sir Henry Drayton, about the 28th or 29th of June last. It has now been passed by the Commons.

With the leave of the House I move the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: May I ask my honourable friend a question? I understood him to say that the Bill before the House covered the amounts necessary for the carrying on of the work of the Government for the months of December to March next, inclusive. What about the intervening months during which the public expenditure necessary has been made under Governor General's warrants? Are they also included, and is that expenditure to be confirmed by Parliament?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: All I can say in answer to my honourable friend is that those special warrants were laid on the Table of the House of Commons. I do not know that they needed approval by that House. They were submitted as justification for the expenditure, pro tanto. The request which is made now covers the present quarter of the current year. I have not followed very closely the proceedings of the other House, and have failed to notice that any special resolution was passed to approve of that expenditure under special warrants.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: My understanding was that Parliament was summoned particularly to pass the Estimates which, owing to dissolution, were not passed at last session, and to make provision for the public service to the end of the fiscal year; and I am somewhat surprised to hear my honourable friend say that this Supply Bill includes only the months of December to March next.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: His Excellency the Governor General took the place of Parliament during that interim. According to the Constitution, as Parliament was dissolved, the administration of the country proceeded under those special warrants.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: That is quite true, but I was under the impression that the present Prime Minister made public announcement, when Parliament was summoned, that the reason for calling Parliament was to make provision for both these requirements—to sanction expenditures made since July last, and to vote supply for the rest of the fiscal year. I must have been mistaken.

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

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Governor General, acquainting him that the Right Honourable F. A. Anglin, Acting as Deputy of the Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to-day at 3.15 p.m., for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to a certain Bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I would like to impart to the Senate an idea as to the adjournment which it is proposed the Senate should take. I understand that the House of Commons will adjourn to the 8th of February. Under ordinary circumstances we could take a somewhat longer adjournment, because of the longer time required by the other House to deal with measures; but I am informed that there is important legislation which will have to be dealt with by the Senate. It may not require a long attendance. I do not know what important work we shall have. However, I give notice of my intention to move that when the Senate adjourns this afternoon it do stand adjourned to Tuesday, the 15th of February. If at that time there is only work for a couple of days, honourable members living at a distance may be notified to that effect, but I am informed that on account of the important legislation to be submitted, we should not extend our adjournment beyond that date.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Right Honourable F. A. Anglin, the Deputy of the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been