

Mr. ROBB: I should like to get these votes cleaned up before six o'clock and go on with another department.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Before eight o'clock then?

Mr. ROBB: I do not think I can; I will give it to my right hon. friend to-morrow.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the minister have some estimates under which we can discuss this matter?

Mr. ROBB: Of the Finance department? I am not sure, but if not we can discuss it in connection with any other department that I am interested in.

Item agreed to.

Expenses in connection with the negotiation of treaties, \$20,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is this to pay the expenses of the minister?

Mr. ROBB: This item, to provide for expenses in connection with the negotiation of treaties, was first included in the estimates for 1922-23, and at that time with the cattle embargo conference. The expenditure in 1922-23 was \$8,264.83. In 1923-24 there was no expenditure. Up to February 20, 1925, the expenditure was \$2,579.06.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What about all those trips round the world in the negotiation of treaties? They cannot be included.

Mr. ROBB: My right hon. friend will find a return of my expenses in the Auditor General's department, I believe they will compare very favourably with his own travelling expenses when he was Prime Minister.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They will not be any less.

Mr. ROBB: Do not be too sure about that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I guarantee it right now. However, I was not speaking of the amount of the expenses, I was saying that they cannot be included in this item.

Mr. ROBB: They are not in this item.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What has this to do with the negotiation of treaties, which has been largely a matter of voyaging?

Mr. ROBB: My right hon. friend will observe that in 1923-24 there was no expenditure. In 1922-23 there was an expenditure of \$8,264.83. I have not the details but my right hon. friend will remember that the Minister of Finance in that year negotiated a

treaty with France and, I think, with Italy, but I am not sure whether the expenses on that occasion are included in the amount or not. As to the expenditure up to February 20, 1925, of \$2,579.06, I do not know what it represents.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I should like to know first what portion of the expenses this covers. It does not cover the entertainment of the treaty makers; that is in the one before. What could it cover?

Mr. ROBB: This does not include all but I am told some of this expense was incurred by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) in going down to Washington. I am not very sure—I should not like to be quoted as saying it—whether part of the expenses of the gentleman who went to the West Indies is charged here, but I will get full details for my right hon. friend.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is what I would like to know—what this covers; and what jaunts are in mind this year.

Mr. ROBB: I will get that information for my right hon. friend.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Mr. Ross is still at sea is he?

Mr. ROBB: Yes, I am told he is likely to land at Sydney on the thirteenth. If he goes by rail, he will be in Melbourne before the sixteenth.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is that the reason why the government are trying to hurry the session—so that there will be no chance of getting the Australian treaty through?

Mr. ROBB: I will be glad to hear that there is any prospect of getting it through.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the minister say the trip of Mr. Ross is included under this item?

Mr. ROBB: I would not think so. He is an officer of the department and his expenses are charged up to the department.

Mr. MEIGHEN: So are the expenses of the Minister of Justice. For the life of me I do not know what can be included in this item. It is a new item, it was put in by this government.

Mr. ROBB: Yes. It was first included in the estimates for 1922-23.

Mr. CALDWELL: Has the minister had representations from numerous firms in Canada urging that the Australian treaty should be ratified?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.