

us informed from time to time, so far as may be possible, especially with regard to the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I should like further to suggest that before any figures are given out as to the casualties, they should first be verified. There should be no solemn faces amongst the people of the Dominion; we are prepared to face the worst.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I do not know of any announcement having been given out this year without it first being verified.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Perhaps not this year, but certainly last year.

QUEBEC SISTERS OF CHARITY ORPHANAGE.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: May I ask for information from the Government with regard to a report I have seen from the city of Quebec that the military authorities have terminated the lease of a certain property in Quebec which has been under lease for at least forty years to the ladies called the Sisters of Charity, which has been occupied by them as an orphanage, and in which there are now not less than two hundred orphans. Has the lease been terminated? Personally, I think the Citadel property would be better adapted to the Government's military requirements.

MAJOR-GENERAL MEWBURN: The property has been occupied as my right hon. friend states, but it was considered valuable for military purposes, and an officer has been sent to Quebec to investigate the matter. The lease has not yet been cancelled, and nothing has been done in the way of removing the occupants from the building. I hope an amicable arrangement will be come to before action is taken.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The matter came up last autumn. Certain representations were made, in view of which it was arranged that those in occupation of the premises should not be disturbed during the inclement season, but I think it was pointed out then that the property might be required for military purposes this spring.

Mr. H. E. LAVIGUEUR (Quebec County): I have just received a letter from the Sisters of Charity in Quebec saying that they have received notice from the military authorities there. There are two hundred orphans in the building, which has been occupied for over fifty years and on which considerable sums of money have been

[Sir Robert Borden.]

spent. There is no way at all for the Sisters of Charity—

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not in order for the hon. member to enter into any discussion of this matter on the Orders of the Day. It having been brought to the attention of the Government, nothing further can be done at this stage.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I did not hear a word of what my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) said. Hon. members sitting in this part of the House do not know what the building is to which he refers. I think we must insist on the words being spoken loud enough for the members to hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I am sorry my hon. friend spoke too late. I should have been glad to speak louder if he had directed my attention to it earlier.

Mr. SPEAKER: Perhaps it would assist very materially if the hon. members themselves would indulge in less conversation.

SUPPLY—INTERIM VOTE.

The House in Committee of Supply, Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: My hon. friend the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. A. K. Maclean) some days ago called my attention to the fact that the Supplies voted by the House last session will expire on the 31st of this month, and he asked me to agree to voting the usual two months' supply in advance of the usual Supply Bill. I have no objection at all, but this vote is being taken on very short notice. I suppose it is all right, but I am not overburdened with confidence in my hon. friend the Minister of Finance.

Mr. MACLEAN: I can assure my hon. friend that it is all right. I move:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$26,282,144.31 being one-sixth of the amount of each item set forth in the main estimates for the year ending 31st March 1919, laid on the table of the House this day, be granted to His Majesty for the year ending 31st March 1919.

Mr. MURPHY: I have no objection to the adoption of the resolution, provided it be understood that consent to its adoption to-day will not preclude the moving at a later period to strike out any particular item to which any hon. gentleman may take exception.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Certainly.