

The Estimates and the Service.—A Prorogation Reflection.

For the public service in the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1911, the House of Commons has voted altogether \$132,814,075!

In public business, as in almost every other business, one of the big items of expense is labor. A very large share of this great sum of money will go to those who serve the Dominion in their several capacities, from the message boy in a government workshop up to the Governor General.

Excluding only the items of public debt, provincial subsidies and Indians, which represent about \$25,000,000, *every vote in the long list means the providing of money for the remuneration of public servants.*

It is a habit of the popular mind — duly reflected in our laws — to think of the civil service only as certain classes of people, nearly all employed in offices and handling books and papers. But that is an unreasonable assumption, and some day we shall see more clearly that all those who earn salaries from the Dominion of Canada — judges, soldiers, laborers, clerks, lighthouse-keepers, nurses, policemen, postmasters, explorers, and all the others—are members of one service; and, whether we call it "civil" service or not, it should be organized as one great body engaged in the service of the people as a whole.

Of the sum stated above, \$37,248,715 is to be spent on capital account. That is, it will be translated into railways, public buildings and other works of more than merely temporary value. This leaves \$95,765,359 to be spent in paying subsidies and interest on the public debt and in providing the materials and paying the wages for carrying on the current service of the year.

Those who call themselves, and are called, civil servants are inter-

ested specially in several large items of these votes. The first is that which has always been known as "Civil Government." This vote is to pay the salaries and contingencies of a large part of the inside service. The amount voted for the fiscal year upon which we have now entered is \$14,589,329, an increase of about \$350,000 over last year. The increase is not due to any marked advance in the cost of carrying on any one department, but is spread over practically all departments and about in proportion to their size. The item of legislation, while it includes the indemnities of Commoners and Senators, covers also about \$200,000 for salaries of members of the inside service. These salaries show few and unimportant changes.

The most noteworthy increase in the estimates is to provide for the new naval service. The vote on this account is increased from \$855,500 last year to \$3,676,500. The new department will mean considerable additions to the civil service as ordinarily understood, for the clerical work will be heavy. The department will begin with a staff of twenty-eight.

The service of the Experimental Farms is to be extended under increased votes of \$52,000, of which \$20,000 will be to establish new experimental stations. The opening up of new areas of the Dominion and the development of new ideas in growing and marketing crops makes it necessary for the service to extend its operations. There are large increases of expenditure in connection with the Dominion lands, mainly due to the great influx of settlers into the Canadian West. The lighthouse and coast service also shows an increase, because of the desire to furnish additional aids to navigation.