

be devoted is the war. I think the minister might very well drop this nebulous and mystic thing called "special problems."

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am sure that my hon. friend (Mr. Knowles) has not done himself justice when he puts this forward to the committee as a sober criticism of an item for a purpose of this kind. I will leave it to the committee to say if it thinks that he has. No one expected that this money was to come from any other source than the source from which money generally comes. It has to be raised by the different methods by which revenues are raised and appropriated to its different purposes. If my hon. friend will do a little reading—I am sure he does a great deal—and a little thinking; which but for this exhibition I would have supposed he did a good deal of—he will see that there is no progressive nation in the world to-day which is not putting a tremendous amount of its force into these very things. Great Britain, as most other nations, the United States not excepted, found when this war opened and communications were cut, what she has lost in the preceding ten or twenty years in not pursuing problems like this and making them concrete. She found that she was practically helpless in reference to some of the most basic needs of the country. She woke up and woke up mighty quickly to the necessity of seeing that such should not happen again. This Bureau of Industrial and Scientific Research is formed upon the same plan as the advisory council in Great Britain. At present the advisory council has connected with it the best talent and the best advisory committees in all these different lines of scientific and practical business and industrial knowledge that Great Britain can afford. The British Government have put behind that council £1,000,000 for expenditures along lines tending in this very same direction. I do not think I ought to take up the time of the committee in replying to the little flight of criticism of my hon. friend. It would not be fair to him and it would not be fair to the committee. He did not do himself justice in making that criticism and no other in respect to this matter and I am sure he would feel that way too himself. I do not want to make him feel too badly and I shall not say any more about it.

Mr. CARROLL: I understand that these studentships and fellowships are for the purpose of investigating special problems but I did not understand what the \$25,000 was for.

[Mr. Knowles.]

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: There are studentships and fellowships and then there are special problems which are to be attacked.

Mr. CARROLL: I understand about the studentships and fellowships.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: They are really processes by which the students as students always have to progress in their researches. Whilst engaged in research work upon any line, if they are successful we get the practical result of that investigation but they are still perfecting themselves along lines of research and learning to be successful investigators. In that line of research, carried on after a university course of one or two years, they might light upon certain solutions and they might be very successful in that way. But the problems, one of two of which I mentioned, are to be undertaken by men who are expert researchers, and the vote of \$25,000 is to provide for this work.

Mr. CARROLL: The University of Saskatchewan is investigating the various purposes for which straw may be utilized. Is that, for example, a special problem, to which a portion of this \$25,000 will go?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: In that particular case, I think, if I remember rightly, it is to provide an analyst for the professor who has been carrying on the investigation for a year or more.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I understand these students are to be selected from among the most proficient in certain lines of study; will they be selected by Professor Macallum?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: These gentlemen who make up the advisory council are really representatives of our universities, where scientific courses are carried on, as for instance, McGill, Kingston and the others. The council gets into communication, in the best way they can, with all the local students who are approaching their final terms in these different universities, and gets their history from the university authorities. By that process of inquiry, and often by actual interview of some member of the advisory council with these young men, they obtain the information. Of course, every young man carries on these studies in the university under the superintendence of some professor or expert, and the council gets the report from the professor or expert as to the young man's work. Something depends, too, upon the kind of investigation which the young man is carrying on. With reference to some