

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Then I ask if the cabinet will consider whether or not they sanction this proceeding on the part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. May we hope for an answer within a few days? May we hope for an answer as to whether the government sanctions this proceeding?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It does not.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It does not. I thank the hon. member.

MERCHANT MARINE ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GEORGES BOUCHARD (Kamou-raska) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) whether the government has given effect to the Canadian Merchant Marine Act of 1934, according to which captains of ships of more than ten tons must have a certificate and such ships must have an engineer on board?

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, as I have already stated in the house, the Merchant Marine Act, adopted at the session of 1934, has not yet been promulgated and is therefore not yet in force.

Mr. PIERRE F. CASGRAIN (Charlevoix-Saguenay) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, on the same subject, could the hon. Minister of Marine make a statement or give instructions to the customs officers at seaports in order to remove the fears that exist regarding the putting into force of the act to which the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Bouchard) has just referred?

I myself have received, during the last few days, numerous petitions from all parts of the constituency of Charlevoix-Saguenay. All the seamen are up in arms and are wondering if they will be able to obtain their certificate to go to Quebec, this act having been adopted. As there is some doubt, I should be obliged to the hon. Minister of Marine if he would supply the necessary information in that regard.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): I am surprised that the hon. member has received so many petitions on that subject.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): I can show them to you.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): All the seamen who have addressed inquiries to the Department have received a satisfactory answer, and I am told that at present they are all aware that the act of 1934 is not yet in force.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

INTERIM SUPPLY

VOTE OF ONE TWELFTH FOR FISCAL YEAR
1935-36

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I would like to ask for unanimous consent to secure interim supply. Unless we do secure it, much inconvenience will be caused to the public service, because we shall have no money available to pay salaries for the month of April. According to the well established practice I asked the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) if we might secure a vote of one-sixth, which was the amount of the first interim supply granted last year. My right hon. friend did not concur in the suggestion that I should ask for one-sixth, but did intimate his willingness to concur in the granting of one-twelfth, plus an additional one-sixth in the case of certain items where the heavier expenses come in the early portion of the year, and those particular items I would be glad to indicate to the house if it so desires.

I might point out that I would have preferred one-sixth for the reason amongst others that we have this year a condition that has not obtained hitherto. Our estimates were set up this year, as the house was advised in the earlier stages of the session, upon the basis of ninety per cent of the normal vote, and the reason was explained at the time. It is proposed early next week to bring in a bill which will have the effect of restoring five per cent of the ten per cent deduction, but in the meantime when we get out one-twelfth, that one-twelfth will have to provide not only for one-twelfth of the estimates as they stand to-day but also for the additional money which will be required to pay the additional five per cent in salaries which begins on April 1. As I say, I would have preferred the one-sixth, but inasmuch as we can secure interim supply only by unanimous consent, I have drafted a bill upon the basis of a general vote of one-twelfth plus one-sixth in the case of certain specific items which I shall be pleased to indicate to the house if it so desires.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): My hon. friend, the Minister of Finance has just said that he had asked me if I thought it would be possible to secure unanimous consent to the government being given a measure of interim supply. Being desirous as always to be as helpful as possible, I told him that we might manage one-twelfth, but I doubted very much whether it would be possible to secure unanimous consent with respect to granting one-sixth. My hon. friend saw I think the force of the reason I gave; at any