

House of Commons—

Publishing debates, including salaries of amanuenses, etc.—further amount required, \$13,095.55.

To provide for the full sessional indemnity to members of the House of Commons—days lost through absence caused by illness, official public business, or on account of death during the present session—notwithstanding anything to the contrary in chapter 147 of the revised statutes, 1927, an act respecting the Senate and House of Commons, or any amendment thereto. Payments to be made as the treasury board may direct, \$12,000.

Mr. BENNETT: I should like to say one word with respect to this matter. I mentioned it to the Prime Minister when we rose. I refer to the question of the payment of sessional stenographers. During the last régime there were no statutory increases, and it will be recalled there was a reduction in payments made to civil servants. The policy which had been adopted for many years in connection with the sessional stenographic staff was a salary of \$4 per day to begin with; when they had served a second session they went to \$4.50 and in the third session they went to \$5. But after the failure to provide statutory increases, and the diminution of salaries which took place in consequence of a general reduction in the salaries of civil servants, that was not continued. It has resulted in some ill feeling, if I may use so strong a word, on the part of those who have served in some cases three and four sessions, and in other cases longer than that. Mr. Speaker will no doubt be aware of the circumstances. The old rule of the sliding scale has been discontinued. I remember having personally discussed the matter at the instance of those then in charge, and with the gentleman who looks after the staff. He told me—and I believe it is still so—that beginning with a fixed rate and increasing fifty cents the next year and fifty cents the following year was eminently and entirely satisfactory. I trust when the committee on internal economy makes a final adjustment of these matters at the end of this session they will return to the old rule departed from by the late government at the time I have indicated, when there was a lessening of salaries paid to civil servants and when statutory increases were discontinued.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

To provide for expenses connected with the administration of Indian affairs, including salaries, supplies, relief, medical attendance, hospitalization, dwellings, agricultural activities, surveys, roads, bridges, irrigation, dyking, education, etc.—further amount required, \$130,000.

[Mr. Crerar.]

Mr. BENNETT: I have made certain inquiries about this from the Minister of the Interior, and he has explained to my satisfaction that this is to look after increases in salaries provided for by statute and other matters of that kind. I shall not take up the time of the committee with any further discussion.

Mr. CRERAR: I might say that the grant for the educational side of Indian work was cut in the main estimates, and this simply restores it to where it was last year.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dominion Lands, Parks, etc.—

To provide for the expenses connected with the national parks of Canada, historic sites, care of indigents in the parks, the appointment of stipendiary magistrates in the parks and the payment of their remuneration, etc.—further amount required, \$50,000.

Administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act—further amount required, \$4,000.

To assist in the development of the Canadian section of the International Peace Garden in Manitoba, \$12,000.

To provide for the expenses incurred under the Lake of the Woods Control Board Act, 1921, and under the agreement between the Dominion, Ontario and Manitoba, confirmed, by the Lac Seul Conservation Act, 1928, for the construction of a dam at the outlet of Lac Seul and its operation by the Lake of the Woods Control Board, moneys expended to be reimbursed to the dominion by the province of Manitoba under the terms of paragraph 8 of the Manitoba transfer agreement, \$20,000.

To provide for the expenses incurred under the Lake of the Woods convention, 1925, for Canadian participation in legal proceedings in the United States incidental to acquiring a flowage easement over lands bordering on lake of the Woods in the United States, two-thirds of the moneys expended to be reimbursed to the dominion by the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario under the terms of the agreement of November 15, 1922, \$10,000.

Mr. BENNETT: In order that it may appear on the record, may I publicly direct the attention of the Minister of the Interior to a matter about which I spoke to him privately. In the national park at Banff there is a publicly owned lighting system developed from the water in the river. It is very satisfactory. There are two sets of rates, that which they charge domestic customers and that chargeable against others. With great effort the permanent officials were induced to believe it might be possible to provide a cheaper rate for what we might call heat and power for larger motors. A rate was provided with a minimum of \$3 per month. The meters are paid for on a rental basis of twenty-five cents per month, so that that need not enter into the discussion. Unfortunately with