

Hon. Mr. REID: It was thought that between January and March 31, last, there might be a possibility of some of the money being expended.

Mr. CANNON: Then the department still has this money at its disposal?

Hon. Mr. REID: No, the vote lapsed on March 31. Whenever the vote lapses we must insert it again in the Estimates each year.

Mr. PARENT: After the experience of last year why was it necessary to repeat the vote?

Hon. Mr. REID: This vote has been in the Estimates for a good many years. An arbitration may take place at any time and we must have this vote to meet the expenditure.

Mr. PARENT: The item reads "miscellaneous works not provided for." If the minister can point out one single work carried out by the National Railways which does not involve a cost of more than \$2,000 I will be very glad to hear his statement.

Hon. Mr. REID: This item represents arbitrations and awards and possible litigation. It has nothing at all to do with the Canadian National Railways; it relates solely to the department. If the item had reference to arbitrations and awards in connection with the National Railways it would appear in the National Railways vote.

Item agreed to.

Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada: Maintenance and Operation of, \$206,060.

Hon. Mr. REID: Of this vote \$159,760 is required for the salaries of the staff as compared with \$154,890 for the fiscal year ending March 31, last; official reporting, \$11,800; official car, including the salary of a porter, \$3,800; printing, \$2,900; stationery, \$3,800; telegraph and telephone, \$2,000; board and staff's travelling expenses, \$12,000; contingencies, \$10,000. The only change is in the salaries of the staff, and that is accounted for by the application of the reclassification.

Mr. CAHILL: Are the findings of the Railway Commission laid on the table of the House at any time?

Hon. Mr. REID: The annual report of the commission was laid on the table a short time ago; it consisted, I think, of three or four large volumes.

[Mr. Cannon.]

Mr. CAHILL: Does that report contain the findings of the commission in regard to the increased railway rates and the evidence taken before the commission in that connection?

Hon. Mr. REID: It does not give the evidence, as I understand, but according to my recollection does contain a summary of the decisions rendered.

Mr. CAHILL: Where can we get a copy of the evidence referred to?

Hon. Mr. REID: That evidence is public property. One could obtain it by applying to the Secretary of the Railway Commission, Mr. Cartwright.

Mr. CAHILL: Doesn't the minister think that printed reports of that kind should be laid on the table, or at least typewritten copies, so that members could have access to them from time to time? It is impossible for a member to go down to the office of the commission and sit there and read the evidence through. On the other hand if it were made available here he could make good use of it.

Hon. Mr. REID: I am afraid the making of typewritten copies of the evidence given in each case would involve a lot of work and cause a great deal of expense, and in the long run very few of the reports might be asked for. If any hon. member desires to have a copy of such report, or any other person, it would be desirable to write the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners.

Mr. CAHILL: I made application for a copy of the evidence in the rates increase case and was referred to some gentleman in Toronto who would furnish it to me for a certain price. I think when the minister is expending millions of dollars on these railways the extra cost of getting a copy, or copies, of this evidence for the records of the House, or for reference purposes of members, would be very trifling.

Hon. Mr. REID: Of course if these reports are asked for while the House is in session they will be obtained and laid on the table. When the House is not in session and members require reports it is a rather different matter. Then it would not be unfair to ask members, or the public, to pay the actual cost of preparing such reports.

Mr. CANNON: Who are the members of the Railway Commission?

Hon. Mr. REID: Mr. Carvell is the chairman, and Mr. McLean, the vice-