

in previous sessions. This item is simply to clean up some of the outstanding unsettled items with the British government.

Item agreed to.

**Soldier and general land settlement—**

To provide for the cost of administration of soldier settlement and general land settlement, and for the cost of administration of soldier settlement staff, performing investigations for the war veterans' allowance committee and Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, \$786,300.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Could we have an explanation of this large item which involves an increase of \$12,700?

Mr. CRERAR: The increase is practically all due to the statutory increases to the employees in that branch.

Mr. BENNETT: In connection with the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, may I say that I think those who occupied positions under this act and who were appointed under the statute for five years should be given something more than a month's notice of the termination of their employment. There are two or three cases which I think the government would do well to consider carefully and determine whether it would not be consistent with the general view taken by the government in connection with these appointments to do something more than has been done. There is not a single person left except the judges.

Mr. DUNNING: My right hon. friend is discussing an entirely different matter.

Mr. BENNETT: This item refers to the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act. I merely suggest to the government that they give sympathetic consideration to these cases. Similar representations were made to the late government in connection with other matters of the same kind and they were dealt with in a much more sympathetic manner.

Mr. CRERAR: May I point out to my right hon. friend that this item has nothing to do with the administration of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act. This is merely some appraisal work which the soldier settlement board inspectors do when requested by the authorities in charge of the administration of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act.

Mr. BENNETT: As long as it comes under the act, that is all I desire to say, because it involves the payment of costly administration for part of the work done under the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, and it affords me an opportunity, not to say the things I might properly say, but to suggest that it would be at least—

Mr. STIRLING: Decent.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend says "decent." I put it no more strongly than this, that it would be at least reasonable for the government to consider giving more sympathetic treatment than has been accorded to those who made arrangements in consequence of their appointment, changed their homes and found themselves, with a month's pay, relieved of their positions under, in some cases, extremely difficult conditions. I merely ask the minister to give careful and sympathetic consideration to the matter. The Minister of Finance is, of course, more vitally affected than the Minister of the Interior. The dictates of reason, of sympathy and of the decent amenities of public life would warrant more sympathetic treatment being accorded the people of whom I have spoken than they have yet received.

Item agreed to.

**Miscellaneous—**

To provide for the administration of the Royal Canadian Mint, including salaries, contingencies, retiring and other allowances, and general expenses, \$230,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Why the increase?

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance): An extension has been built owing to an increase in business. The increase is to provide for statutory increases in wages and salaries, \$9,500; for equipment for the new refinery, \$5,000; for recovering values from the old refinery, \$7,000; and for contingencies. The increased expenditure is due to new business.

Item agreed to.

**Administration of the Old Age Pensions Act, \$12,000.**

Mr. BENNETT: Can the minister give particulars of the probable increase by reason of Quebec accepting old age pensions?

Mr. HEAPS: Perhaps the minister will give us an approximate figure as to the number of persons he expects to come under the provisions of the act in the province of Quebec.

Mr. DUNNING: The final estimates have not been completed with respect to the anticipated cost in the province of Quebec. Naturally experience is more important than any estimate in connection with a matter of this kind, but it is anticipated that the additional cost to the dominion in consequence of the addition of the province of Quebec will be in the neighbourhood of \$6,000,000.

Mr. BENNETT: I thought it would be more than that.