

Supply—Agriculture

fought in defence of his country and of freedom denied the opportunity of receiving an education.

Therefore on behalf of this group I want to express the strongest support possible for this act and for the amendments, and we trust it will be further amended to meet the representations of the Canadian Legion when that day arrives.

Mr. Brooks: Before the resolution carries, Mr. Chairman, I am now in a position to answer the question raised by the hon. member for Laurier, who wanted to know the number of children who had received benefits under the act in the past year. That number is 507. I might add that under the new amendments we anticipate the number receiving benefits will be in the neighbourhood of between 720 and 740.

I wish to thank the hon. member for Kootenay-West for his co-operation, which I have always received in the past. He mentioned the spending of considerable sums of money for bringing immigrants to this country. I would merely point out to him that this country has been settled by immigrants. As I read over the list of names of those who have received benefits under this act I observe that many of them are children of immigrants who came to Canada and served Canada in the last war. So those who came to our shores may be immigrants today but they will be Canadians tomorrow, and we find that in the past the immigrants and their children have played a significant role in the building up of this country and will do so in the future.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be misunderstood. I am not at all opposed to immigration. I was referring only to immigrants from countries who fought against us in world war II, and only in the context of comparing what we do for these immigrants and what we should be prepared to do for the children of deceased veterans. We should not allow the needs of any veteran or his dependants to go unheeded or unremedied.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Brooks thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-45, to amend the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read a second time; by leave, now?

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the house to permit the bill to be read a second time now. The committee on veterans

affairs is sitting, and we propose to send this bill immediately to that committee.

Mr. Chevrier: That is agreed so far as we are concerned.

Mr. Herridge: Agreed.

Hon. A. J. Brooks (Minister of Veterans Affairs) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-45, to amend the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act.

Motion agreed on, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on veterans affairs.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rea in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Administration service—

1. Departmental administration, including advisory committee on agricultural services, \$674,164.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Chairman, with the permission of the committee I should like to revert to a matter which was under discussion yesterday, namely the dismissal of one Walter Mitchell, formerly employed as a checker and fumigator in the port of Montreal. I shall try to discuss this case without acrimony and as quietly and equitably as I can having regard to the circumstances.

The question arose some time ago because of a starred question which I put on the order paper. It also came up during a short discussion of the estimates of the Department of Agriculture one day last week and again yesterday when I moved to have certain documents produced in connection with the dismissal. I would have thought the minister would have had no objection to the production of these documents, because when a person is dismissed and loses his employment there should be no objection on the part of those taking such action to producing the evidence upon which the dismissal is based. For those reasons I should now like to put on record the other side of the case.

Mr. Walter Mitchell was a checker and fumigator at the port of Montreal for the last 22 years. I have forgotten how many years the minister said he was employed, not that long, but the information I have in my possession is that he has been employed in that capacity perhaps not during all the time but certainly in the Department of Agriculture for 22 years. He was employed during the season of navigation only; that is, he began his work in April and terminated it in December. He was a loyal, efficient, assiduous and honest employee of the Department of Agriculture. In fact, I am informed that