

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Why, that is the interest on several millions of dollars. It is a very serious matter.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We are now in sight of the end. The rate for this year will continue the same, namely, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents a gallon, but next year it will be down at $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: What will be the cost of this gradual extinction—this painless dentistry, so to speak?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Judging by the figures for the fiscal year ending June, 1923, I should not be surprised if we were called upon to pay another \$89,000.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Then, next year?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Then the bounty is to be cut in two; so the amount payable would be something like \$45,000.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: That would total about \$135,000.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: There are a few Civil Servants who have not been put up to \$8,000, and speaking on their behalf—on behalf of the poor, down-trodden, ill-paid Civil Servants—I think you had better take that duty off altogether, so that you may make a level figure of \$8,000 a year for all the Civil Service. That seems to be the smallest amount upon which a Civil Servant can properly subsist, and if you cut off this bounty altogether you may have money enough to bring a few more of those poor fellows up to \$8,000 a year, and to hunt up a few more stipendiary magistrates down in the Province of Quebec and increase their salaries to \$8,000, and so level up things in this country.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Minister of Finance is in contact with the producers of oil. My honourable friend has said that immense fortunes were made. Of course, he has in view a person who is prominent in North America, but he is not on this side of the line. I am told that there are not immense fortunes made in this country. After having examined the situation thoroughly, the Minister of Finance, who is desirous of saving money to the country, has decided for the first time to fix a limit to the payment of the bounty. It is to continue for two years, but for the second year it is cut in two. I think we are moving in the right direction and in a way that ought to be approved by my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I think I would get on a little more speed in eliminating this bounty, because if we are to believe the

literature we are furnished with gratuitously, there are great fortunes in oil. We know that the fortunes made in oil are not confined to the other side of the line. We have right in our own country the instance of the late President of the Imperial Oil Company, whose estate was probated, I think, at four or five million dollars. That is a comfortable fortune for a country lawyer to make. He was four times a millionaire.

It is necessary, as I say, to bring the Civil Service up to a certain point, and we must get the money somewhere. I would hate to see any increase of taxation for that purpose, worthy as it is; I would hate to see an additional Sales Tax put on, or the Income Tax doubled. So I think it would be well to reconsider this Bill, and wipe out the bounty altogether.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It strikes me that this Bill may conceal an important fact. It does not state in express language that the period for the payment of bounties has expired. Is not that the case? I would so infer from the language of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: There was no limit in the Act. This Bill fixes a limit for the first time.

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: The bounty has been on for 25 or 30 years.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This apparently gives to the Governor in Council fresh authority:

The Governor in Council may authorize the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada of a bounty payable only on crude petroleum.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Then this must be additional.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am informed that the operation of the old Act was to continue indefinitely until repealed by Parliament.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Has it been repealed by Parliament?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We are now repealing it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This would seem to be a fresh authorization to pay bounties.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend will observe that clause 4 provides:

The Petroleum Bounty Act, 1909, Chapter 46 of the Statutes of 1909-10, is repealed.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No period was mentioned in that?