

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I will bring my hon. friend's observations to the attention of the Minister of Finance.

To provide for the publication of the second edition of Constitutional Documents relating to Canada, vol. 1, 1759 to 1791, \$5,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: My right hon. friend will surely admit that if there is any item included in this \$30,000,000 in regard to which we may fairly assume that the expenditure cannot be deemed urgent, this is one. Is it proposed to spend this money?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It is proposed to expend this money for the reason that the previous edition is altogether exhausted, and we have received innumerable demands from judges of the courts and others in all parts of Canada, and from other countries, for further supplies of this book. It is a very important publication, and of a character such as is published by nearly every civilized country in the world. Commendations of the work have been received from time to time from important bodies in nearly every European country, and in the United States. The book is said to be urgently required in Canada for many purposes. I have had many personal letters on the subject, and, after a good deal of consideration, the Government thought that the demand for this book and its usefulness were such as to justify us in asking for the moderate sum of \$5,000 in order that a second edition might be published.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The Prime Minister will see that it is an entirely new item.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Oh, yes; it is an absolutely new item for the second edition of the book.

Mr. McKENZIE: Can the Prime Minister tell us whether or not this is the book which an agent was endeavouring to sell in my province last summer? This agent represented himself as being connected with the Archives, and as co-operating with the gentleman whom I understand to be at the head of the Archives, and he said that the book was highly recommended by the Government. The book—from its name—pretended to publish constitutional documents and documents in the Archives that were never published before. Perhaps this is not the same book as is mentioned in this item, but I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that the publication I refer to is regarded as a huge fraud; it consists of sixteen volumes

[Mr. Oliver.]

which are sold at \$4 each. I am not speaking personally as having been hurt in any way in connection with this book, because I did not subscribe to it, but clergymen and other respectable people in my community came to me and said that the book was a great fraud upon the public, and that this agent had said that he was an agent of the Government, and was encouraged by the Government to sell this book, and he also had the names of some reputable men in this country. I take it for granted that this is not the same publication, but I take this opportunity of pointing out that this agent, whose name I now forget, represented himself as being connected with the Archives as receiving the assistance and co-operation of the gentleman at the head of the Archives, and as selling the book under the supervision and authority of the Government. Those who have received the volumes are very much disappointed, and they think that there is nothing new about them at all, and that the public should be warned against this agent.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The book mentioned in the item consists simply of one volume of Constitutional Documents. There is a publication—I will not go into the merits of it—called the Resources of Canada, or something like that, in a large number of volumes, but the Government has absolutely nothing to do with that work. If my hon. friend will send me the name of the agent who represented himself as acting for the Government, it will be my duty to make some inquiry into the matter.

Mr. McKENZIE: I want it distinctly understood that I did not mean to say that he was acting for the Government, but that he said he had the approval and commendation of the Government. That was about all he said.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am not aware personally that the Government had ever expressed any opinion about this work one way or the other. I would not understand it was the duty of the Government to make any comment upon it.

Mr. McKENZIE: Can the Prime Minister tell us who is publishing this work?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The book referred to in this item was got out under the former Administration. I think Dr. Shortt compiled the volumes almost entirely, with some assistance from Dr. Doughty.