

that this House should give it nor that the Railway Committee should have given it. We have the good name of Canada at stake in this matter, and I think this bill should be referred back.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would suggest that, as the sponsor of the bill is not present, it might stand, unless the hon. member wishes to make a motion.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee has no power to refer back. That is the power of the House only.

Mr. FIELDING: I think the suggestion of the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) that, as the sponsor of the bill is absent, the hon member will, perhaps, be content to let the matter stand for the present. My disposition in a case like this is to accept the judgment of the committee; but as neither the sponsor nor anyone from the committee is present to support the bill, I would not like to join in passing it to-night. I would concur in the view that it be laid aside for the present.

Progress reported.

SUPPLY

The House again in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the Chair:

NAVAL SERVICE

Hydrographic Survey, and to provide for the maintenance and repairs of hydrographic steamers, \$350,000.

Mr. GRAHAM: At six o'clock the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) called my attention to the fact that there was an increase of \$35,000. This increase over last year's estimate is accounted for in part by the steadily increasing number of new charts and new additions to old charts that require to be published each year, and in part by statutory salary increases. In addition the sums provided for the operation of ships' parties on the Atlantic coast and on the lower St. Lawrence for the last two years were not sufficient to maintain these parties at work during the whole season, and consequently operations had to be curtailed. It is much more economical to continue operations, once they have been started, as long as possible, and it is proposed that a sufficient sum should be provided this year to enable the parties to remain in the field until weather conditions compel them to return.

Item agreed to.

Fisheries Protection Service and to provide for the repairs and maintenance of the Fishery Protection steamers, \$345,500.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I understood from the minister that the fisheries protection service was included in the first vote, No. 214. I knew it was not, but there must be some explanation of what is included in that vote related to the fisheries service as distinguished from this vote.

Mr. GRAHAM: I explained that I was giving the list of services performed under the Naval Service Department, but which had no connection with the naval service vote.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I understood those trawlers were to protect the fish.

Mr. GRAHAM: Those trawlers I said were practising coast defence. I did not make any reference to their being used for fisheries protection. I did say it was hoped that we would be able to supply men for the fisheries protection boats at the time they would be part of our reserve force.

Mr. MARTELL: What progress has been made towards handing back the patrol boats in connection with the fisheries protection service to the Department of Marine and Fisheries?

Mr. GRAHAM: The deputies of the two departments are working out a scheme for the transfer of more than one of these branches to the Department of Marine and Fisheries in case our plan for reorganization goes through.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Does the minister intend that all the various services covered by items 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220 and 221 shall now go under the jurisdiction of the new Department of Defence, or will they be left with the Department of Marine and Fisheries?

Mr. GRAHAM: That is the matter I was speaking about. The deputies of the two departments are working out a plan, if it can be worked out, for the transfer. Under that plan will go a portion of the staff, the estimates for which I put through this afternoon. We are trying to make a division of the staff as well as of the service. My own idea is that the Department of Defence should have nothing in it except that which pertains to defence.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The hydrographic survey I assume pertains to defence as much