

Mr. COLDWELL: It seems to me that some provision should be made for superannuation for those who serve this country in such capacities. Persons in this position abroad have a small enough allowance upon which to carry out the duties of their office, and often they have to deplete their own private resources in connection with such duties. It is all wrong that only rich men should be able to accept offices of this kind. We should see to it that the expenses of the office are properly covered—and properly audited, may I say—and after that we should make such provision for the incumbents as we do for civil servants. No barrier should be allowed to interfere with the appointment of able men or able women to offices of this kind, regardless of the position and place they occupy in their own community. We have had enough of the old school tie type of diplomacy. We have had enough of diplomacy by well-to-do aristocrats.

Mr. MacNICOL: We have had too much of that.

Mr. COLDWELL: Yes, we have had too much of it. In a young country like Canada the diplomatic service should be open to all able young men and women entering the employ of the Department of External Affairs and rising by sheer merit, not by influence, to the higher positions in that department and to the representation of Canada in other countries. We should provide them with proper salaries and reasonable expenses and treat them as we do the civil service, so that they may enjoy the benefits of superannuation when their career as diplomats is ended.

Item agreed to.

#### PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

251. General administration, \$62,875.

Mr. JACKMAN: As the Prime Minister was not in the house when criticism was being made of the conduct of the business of the house I should like to tell him that those of us who sit in the opposition do not feel at all satisfied with the way departmental estimates are brought before the committee of supply at the very last moment. We would ask him to consider us and those we represent and have the estimates brought down earlier so that we may give them the careful consideration that they require.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall endeavour to see that that request is met next year.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I supplement what the hon. member for Rosedale has said, in which I heartily concur, by suggesting that the committees of the house be set up next

session within a reasonable time after the house convenes? It is very difficult for committees sitting late in the session to do a good job.

Mr. COLDWELL: We support the statements which have just been made. We feel that this manner of passing estimates is a reflection on the house itself. Much of the work that we have been doing here in the last few days in considering various estimates should be done, if possible, in committees of the house. There is an important committee of this house which has not sat this year, the public accounts committee. I think we should have committees looking into the estimates more closely. As the Prime Minister knows, I was on a committee which investigated certain expenditures in a certain organization not unconnected with the government of Canada, and we were literally appalled at the careless manner in which the accounts were handled and at the expenses which were charged up to the organization. They were a reflection upon the organization and upon the administration generally. Certainly we do not want that to occur in connection with our own department, the House of Commons.

Mr. HAZEN: May I suggest to the Prime Minister that at the next session we set up a committee to review matters of immigration and naturalization? Last year the defence of Canada committee had power to review those two subjects but had not the time to get down to them. This year the order of reference to that committee, quite properly, did not include those two subjects. I would suggest that the matter be given consideration and a committee be set up for that purpose.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall be glad to review carefully all the remarks that have been made. I would remind hon. members that we devoted an exceptionally long period this year to the debate on the address and the discussion that followed with regard to the plebiscite. I hope that next year we shall not be having to consider any further plebiscites. If that is the case we shall doubtless get along earlier with the establishment of committees.

Item agreed to.

#### PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

Direct payments to veterans and dependents.  
206. European war pensions, \$38,000,000.

Mr. MacNICOL: It has always passed my comprehension why the widows of soldiers drawing less than 50 per cent have not been able to receive pensions after the decease of their husbands. Soldiers' widows associations throughout Canada have been most active. I