

Public Printing and Stationery Act

mentioned that they owed over \$2,200,000. That means we have to come back to parliament and ask that the revolving fund be increased. As the hon. member knows, this is working capital. I do not know if all these details of every bill outstanding should be laid before the house, because they probably appear in the public accounts. I am not too sure, but I would believe that in the public accounts these bills appear as paid or unpaid.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): As the minister knows, I am always a man who wants to facilitate business as much as I can, but it seems to me at the moment we are in this position. We have asked questions which I hope are more or less reasonable, and they have not been answered. So far as I have been able to grasp, no reason has been given as to why that \$3,700,000 cannot be collected, and it might be good for all concerned if it were collected. I do not know why these things should be allowed to ride along. If the departments got into the habit of paying each other promptly maybe they would get into the habit of paying individuals likewise, and that would be good for all concerned. I think we should have evidence as to whether the king's printer or the department, whoever looks after it, have made a real effort to collect the \$3,700,000. It should not be allowed to pass until we have the information.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): As we have the king's printer in the house I suggest that he can probably supply the details and information.

Mr. Bradley: I should like to point out that work for the various departments is continually going on. It is not a question of doing a particular job for a department and then immediately getting paid for it. Before that one is paid there is another, and then another and another. It is going on all the time. That is the difficulty.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): That ought to be a great help. That just shows what good customers they are. They ought to be able to have the money coming in every day. There is no difficulty about it that I can see.

Mr. Lennard: You cannot get a bill paid if you do not render it.

Mr. McCann: You do not pay until you get your goods.

Mr. Lennard: You do not have to. There is no expense to the department until they deliver the goods.

Mr. Bradley: It should also be remembered that, according to the statement I have already made, we have given credit for the

[Mr. Fournier (Hull).]

amount the departments owe us, and we still find ourselves short two million and a quarter.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): No, he is owed \$3,700,000, and he only owes about \$2,400,000. If he got his money in he would have \$1,300,000 in the bank.

Mr. Knowles: It seems to me the Secretary of State and the Minister of Public Works have not yet understood the question we are putting to them. We want some information about the \$3,700,000 the departments owe to the king's printer. The goods have surely been delivered and the bills rendered. It would seem a perfectly fair and proper question that we be given some examples of some of the departments that owe money, how long it has been owed and why it has not been paid.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Here is a man who knows all about printing saying that too.

Mr. Fair: I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that you dispense with the services of some of the lawyers, get an accountant and you will probably get somewhere.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Which class are you putting me in?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I have in my hands a statement of the king's printer, where it is mentioned that as of a certain date there was owed to suppliers for paper, materials and so forth, \$2,265,643. To meet the payroll for salaries and wages, \$160,000 is needed. Therefore a total of \$2,425,643 is owed. To meet the above debts there is an overdraft in the receiver general's account of \$5,590,137. I do not know if that figure was given before, but it is in this report. The king's printer is owed by other government departments the sum of \$3,786,943 comprising current accounts and work in process. If the king's printer were paid by these departments there would then be an overdraft of \$1,803,193. What we are asking for at this stage of the proceedings is an increase of \$2 million in the revolving fund. If we were authorized under this measure to have that \$2 million we would then have cash available of \$196,807. If you want a list of every department that owes money to the king's printer on current accounts, work in process and invoices not yet addressed to the departments, it would be quite a job to procure that.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): That raises another question. I am sorry to be so hard to convince. We are told now that there is an overdraft of \$5,590,000. We are told that