

Mr. NEILL: Stationery? Coal? Gas?

Mr. MICHAUD: No. We have boats on the Atlantic. He buys supplies for all the boats, and supplies for all the hatcheries. There are repairs needed for our boats, and everything is done through tender. I think the officer justifies his existence as such by the work that under my observation he has to do. Possibly a concentration of all the purchasing departments of the government might result in some saving, but it is a matter of policy.

Mr. NEILL: Could we not cut out the man in British Columbia? The Atlantic purchasing is done here; could not the Pacific coast purchasing be done here also?

Mr. MICHAUD: I doubt it. The purchasing of supplies for British Columbia would be difficult to do from Ottawa. The distances are against us; it is so far away that it takes a long time to communicate. I understand the system that now prevails in Vancouver has been in vogue for over twenty years. Prior to that time the department was administered wholly from Ottawa, and it was not found satisfactory. That is the information I have.

Mr. NEILL: We have a three day mail service now; try air mail and telegraph and wireless; I do not think the distance has got any greater. Is it not a fact that within the last five or six years the department in British Columbia bought three boats? I forget the names of them all, but one, I think, is called the Vanidis. If my information is not erroneous they have already had to rebuild two of them, or they have rebuilt one and contemplate rebuilding the other two. I do not know whether "rebuilding" or "reorganization" is the correct word, but I understand some very big alterations have had to be made on a comparatively new boat.

Mr. MICHAUD: I understand some alterations were made in a boat.

Mr. NEILL: A new boat.

Mr. MICHAUD: A new boat which was bought some years ago.

Mr. NEILL: Then for God's sake get a new purchasing agent.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS— SIXTEENTH ASSEMBLY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Perhaps the house will

permit me, there is a statement which I should have made this morning when speaking on external affairs. The Canadian government will be represented at the adjourned meeting of the sixteenth assembly of the League of Nation's at Geneva on June 30 by the Hon. Phillippe Roy, Canadian minister in France, and the Hon. Vincent Massey, Canadian high commissioner in the United Kingdom. Doctor W. A. Riddell, Canadian advisory officer at Geneva, and Mr. Loring Christie, counsellor in the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, will act as advisers.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

The house resumed at three o'clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following message:

Ottawa, June 23, 1936.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Thibaudeau Rinfret, acting as the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber Tuesday, June 23, at 4 p.m., for the purpose of proroguing the present session of parliament.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. C. Pereira,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

To authorize, subject to the approval of the governor in council, appointment of such extra temporary officers, clerks and employees as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of any of the items in these special supplementary estimates.

Mr. DUNNING: This item was discussed last evening. My colleague will move an amendment in the terms suggested by the leader of the opposition, which will place beyond any doubt the question as to the use to be made of the item.

Mr. CRERAR: I move:

That item 425 be amended by adding thereto the following:

"payment therefor to be made from the particular item with respect to which such extra assistance is required or from any item providing in terms for salaries or administration expenses."

Amendment agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.