

Mr. FIELDING: Will the Minister of Railways say what is the purpose of devolving tens—I was about to say hundreds—of millions of dollars, and grouping them all together? That is not good management of the public business. A great many items are included in this one, and they should be separated, so that the committee might discuss each on its merits, being at liberty to vote for one, and against another. I do not know why the minister should group them all in this one comprehensive item occupying two-thirds of the first page on which it appears, the whole of the second page, and a large portion of the third. This is not a proper way in which to submit the Estimates for the consideration of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. REID: I did not make out the list as it appears before the committee. The items in connection with the railways were sent to the Finance Department, and authorized to be printed in their present form. We sent the list to them. However, I cannot see that there is room for difficulty, because this one vote is divided into different sections, and as I understand the procedure, we shall have to take them up item by item. For instance, the first item under No. 126, is provision of \$2,000 for Arbitrations and Awards and Costs of Litigation, and we shall take that up now.

Mr. STEVENS: You cannot vote for it separately.

Hon. Mr. REID: Any hon. member might move to strike it out.

Mr. FIELDING My hon. friend, I am afraid, lays himself open to the charge of what is sometimes described in other places where they venerate things less than we do, as "passing the buck"—blaming some one else for his own omission. I say that the present form of submitting these Estimates is bad, and should be corrected, and I suggest now, as the only remedy, if the Chairman will consent, that we deal with each of these various sections of the item—some of the sub-items are very lengthy—individually. I move that we take them up separately, confining ourselves to each item. Because, it is not fair to ask Parliament to vote these enormous sums of money in bulk, by one vote under one resolution.

Hon. Mr. REID: I had no intention of passing the buck at all; I assume full responsibility for everything in connection with my department. As regards the

present form of this vote, I may say that this is the way these items have always been submitted to the House; but as we are about to take them up one by one, I see no reason for objection.

The CHAIRMAN: When several items are included in one resolution in the Estimates any hon. member has the perfect right to make the motion just made by the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding), that those items be considered separately. I may point out that when several items included in the same resolution are thus considered separately, it is quite competent for an hon. member to move to strike out any particular item. The Chairman has previously ruled that a motion to strike out an item from the Estimates is not in order. This ruling applies only when there is not more than one item in a separate resolution, because a motion to strike out the item would then be a negative motion. When, however, there are several items in the same resolution, hon. members may move to strike out any individual item. The hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's moves that Resolution 126 be considered item by item. Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

Arbitrations and Awards and Costs of Litigation, \$2,000.

Hon. Mr. REID: This is an annual vote to provide for the payment of law costs, etc., in connection with arbitrations and judicial awards not anticipated or otherwise provided for. Nothing was spent in this direction last year, and this vote is intended to meet any cases that may arise.

Mr. PARENT: Whereabouts in the Auditor General's Report does the expenditure in connection with this item appear?

Hon. Mr. REID: Nothing was spent last year and consequently there is nothing in the Auditor General's Report in connection with this item.

Mr. PARENT: What was the reason for the vote last year, why was it not expended, and why is it necessary again this year?

Hon. Mr. REID: We are asking for the vote because occasionally the need for this expenditure may arise.

Mr. CANNON: Why is it not indicated as a re-vote?