

Supply—Legislation

a like attitude in this parliament. I say to my right hon. friend that I do not believe he himself would have sought to propose any vadicating legislation at any stage of this parliament except the one we have now reached.

Mr. BENNETT: My observation was made in view of the commitments entered into in 1926, which were not made by the British parliament.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That commitment, as I have already said, related to agreements and treaties that might be entered into after that date, not with respect to obligations which had been assumed prior to that time.

Mr. BENNETT: There is a clear distinction in the resolution between treaties and agreements and conventions.

Item agreed to.

LEGISLATION

Library of Parliament—

Salaries, and to authorize payment of M. C. MacCormac from April 1, 1936, to September 30, 1936, \$45,429.

Books for the general library, including binding, \$17,000.

Books for the library of American history, \$1,000.

Contingencies, \$12,500.

To provide for the cost of printing reports, \$1,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I must protest against this procedure. We cannot find the items as fast as you call them. There are limits beyond which this committee ought not to be allowed to go. If we are not permitted to find the items before they are carried, I think it is high time we gave up for to-night and came back in the morning. I wanted to speak for a moment on this item, and I shall not hold up the committee very long as I do not want to disregard the general feeling to-night. Again and again some of us have felt that our library is a disgrace to this parliament. We are facing the necessity of appointing a new librarian in the near future and I think we ought to have a man who knows library work. There should also be a reorganization of the whole institution from top to bottom along modern lines. I know a little about libraries and I do not know of any staff more kindly and considerate than the one we have here, but I think it is perfectly ridiculous that the parliament of Canada should not have a better system in its library. I want to protest against the appointment of a new man simply for political reasons and not one who is thoroughly conversant with library work. Any assistants

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

who are appointed should be thoroughly trained in this work. Instead of putting up buildings to house the mounted police, we should provide a decent stack room for our library. Also we could have an index along modern lines. I should have liked to have the time to deal at some length with what I think might be done, but at this time I must be content with these remarks. I again protest against this rushing through of estimates which occurs year after year and which does not give a chance to hon. members to express their views.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

Empire settlement scheme, \$6,800.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What is this empire settlement scheme?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If this is what is to happen in this committee we might as well admit that this boasted parliamentary institution of ours is becoming a mere farce. I asked a plain question and I think I should receive an answer.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let it stand for a minute.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If the minister himself does not know what the scheme is, then I think it is a rather serious state of affairs.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): I ask my hon. friend to give me an opportunity to get this information. I think it is asking too much to expect a minister to carry the details of four or five departments in his head. I do not think the tone of the hon. member's remarks is called for at all. If he will give me an opportunity of getting the deputy here he will have his information in a few minutes.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In the meantime, may I suggest that if it is too much to ask that of the minister, is it not too much to ask the committee to pass these items without any information being given?

Mr. CRERAR: I quite agree with that and I am not dissenting from the criticism my hon. friend has made. In 1923 there was inaugurated what was known as the 3,000 family scheme for the purpose of bringing 3,000 British families to settle in Canada. That was a cooperative arrangement and it has been discussed at various times in the house