

Supplementary Estimates

Mr. JOHN EVANS (Rosetown): Mr. Speaker, John King was a man greatly respected by the group to which he belonged from 1921 on, as indeed I think he was respected by all who knew him. He was in this House shortly before Christmas, and it was a shock indeed to most of us to read in the papers of his death. This is only another reminder that life is uncertain at the best. Although our friend has reached what is usually considered the allotted span of life, I believe he was still young in the strength of his ideals and in his hopes for the emancipation of his own class. We hope also that the people of North Huron will see fit again to elect a man with the ideals and integrity of character possessed by our friend who has passed away. I would like to convey the sympathy of this group to his friends and relatives.

FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1925-26

A message from His Excellency the Governor General, transmitting further supplementary estimates for the year ending March 31, 1926, was presented by Hon. J. A. Robb (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the House, and referred to the committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1926-27

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SUPPLY

The House in committee of supply, Mr. Johnston in the chair:

Resolved that a sum not exceeding \$2,727,376.35, being amount of further supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1926, be granted to His Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1926.

Mr. GUTHRIE: What item are we on?

Mr. STEVENS: The amount read by the Chairman covers eight items in all. I think that in this particular case each item should be read.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Item 374, providing for the payment of surplus funds of the Canadian wheat board—governor general's warrant of August 19, 1925—is the first as I understand it.

Mr. STEVENS: The printed form shows that there are eight separate resolutions, all [Mr. Brown.]

set forth in proper order and you, Mr. Chairman, read them as if they were just one resolution. That, I think, is not the proper form of procedure.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Very well, take the resolutions one by one:

Payment of surplus funds of the Canadian wheat board (governor general's warrant of August 19, 1925), \$560,000.

Mr. STEVENS: I think the minister ought to give us an explanation of these items. I notice that each amount is covered by a governor general's warrant, and, of course, the government will be most anxious to explain the use of governor general's warrants in view of criticisms of the past. These are all passed, I notice, in 1925-26, most of them in August, 1925. We ought to have an explanation of each item from the minister.

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Finance): This item has to do with the Department of Trade and Commerce and the minister, as hon. gentlemen perhaps know, is absent to-day in Sarnia. This amount is for a governor general's warrant issued in 1925. Hon. gentlemen will recall that the profits of handling wheat during a certain period were paid to the receiver general. At that time I was the receiver general and I resisted very strongly paying the amount back to the provinces. But my hon. friends opposite, and my genial friend alongside of me (Mr. Dunning), who was then Premier of Saskatchewan, insisted that this money belonged to the people who had produced the wheat. The governor general's warrant is to meet that request.

Item agreed to.

Compensation to Crown Paving and Construction Co., on account of excavation work Edmonton grain elevator (governor general's warrant of September 1, 1925), \$6,726.56.

Mr. STEVENS: Will the minister give us an explanation of this item, too?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I can explain the item, but it will have to be pretty much from memory. This was a case in which the contract for the excavation of the Edmonton elevator was let at a fixed price, with a provision with respect to weather conditions. It was in the late fall when the work began, and very severe weather set in, but the architect, Mr. Howe, insisted that the contractor go on with the excavation under very exceptional and severe weather conditions. This is to provide for an allowance that was given the contractor for having performed the service during a period when it cost him a great