

legislative assembly, who wrote me under date of May 10 as follows:

Since coming in to town and mailing my letter to you I have learned that McConnell claims he is a coal dealer. This is not true and never was true. He has it on his bills, etc., but I never heard of him shipping in a car of coal. I believe the contract was worked between him and the Crown Lumber Company. You should insist on getting the names of those who did tender, and I think you will probably find the Crown Lumber Company put in a tender higher than his. They supplied the coal although he got the contract and rake off.

I am not accusing the minister or the administration of wrongdoing in this matter, but I have drawn their attention to what in my opinion is a scandalous method of awarding contracts. If that method is current throughout the various departments there is a wild and extravagant over-expenditure of money in the securing of supplies. I ask the minister to investigate this matter thoroughly, and make sure that in future tenders are called for in the proper way, by open advertisement.

Mr. RALSTON: The other night in connection with this item I brought to the attention of the minister the question of a dismissal in Shelburne county, but at that time the minister had not brought down the return with regard to the dismissal of Doctor Captain Churchill as Indian doctor at that point. Since that time I have received the return.

I simply wish to place these facts on record: In the first place the return shows that, as far as the record goes, the minister simply dismissed Doctor Churchill with no recommendation of any kind. In the second place the minister was warned at the time by his officer that the additional cost per visit to the Indians residing at Shelburne would be approximately \$20. In the third place the first bill submitted by the new doctor for the month was \$153, as against an average monthly bill of the previous doctor of something like \$18. In the fourth place it seems to have been just at the time I called the minister's attention to the fact that these costs had run up so absurdly that instructions were given that the new doctor should not receive any more than the former doctor had received. In the fifth place, notwithstanding the recommendations of the officials of the department to the effect that Doctor Churchill be allowed to do the work at Shelburne, the minister was adamant and absolutely refused to change the appointment. Lastly, to indicate the kind of man who was thus summarily dismissed without either complaint or notice. I have here Captain Churchill's cita-

tion for the award to him of the military cross, which is as follows:

During the fighting east of Arras, 26th-28th August, 1918, he was continuously on duty under heavy shell fire, and had absolutely no relief during the whole period. He kept in touch with all his R.A.P. and was responsible for the rapid evacuation of his wounded from the forward line. His zeal and devotion to duty were admirable.

That is under the authority of the London Gazette. This is the man who was dismissed by the minister with absolutely no recommendation, with the result as I have shown that in one month the department might have had to pay to the new appointee about seven times what was paid on the average to Captain Churchill.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time, and concurred in.

## WAYS AND MEANS

### SUPPLY BILL

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. MacDonald (Cape Breton South) in the chair.

Mr. RHODES moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the year ending March 31, 1932, the sum of \$2,242,474.83, and for the year ending March 31, 1933, the sum of \$161,768,299.87, be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Rhodes thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 101, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1932, and the financial year ending March 31, 1933.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BENNETT moved the adjournment of the house.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in the morning the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) will make a short statement with respect to reparations