

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

remain here, unless we make it possible for the people in Canada to live. What we have been doing up to the present moment, and what we have been doing ever since I can remember—that is about 40 years in Canada—is having children; raising them and educating them; and then sending them to the United States. I taught school for 21 years in one of the finest districts in Canada. Every time I look back over the student bodies I had the privilege of teaching for 21 years, and think of the number of them who are now doing magnificent work in the United States, it makes me furious. I am urging this from the standpoint of getting population into this country, and keeping it here to build the powerful nation we ought to have.

We must give a lot more attention to our freight rate structure than we do at the present time. Having said that, I am going to defer the real development of my speech until a later time.

Item agreed to.

601. Dominion forest service—forest research and investigations—further amount required, \$250,000.

**Mr. Fraser:** Is the minister taking over some of the work the Department of Agriculture is doing at the present time?

**Mr. Winters:** No, Mr. Chairman; there is nothing envisaged under this item, covering work the Department of Agriculture does. This covers an arrangement with the province of New Brunswick under the Canada Forestry Act.

**Mr. Fraser:** It is just for one province?

**Mr. Winters:** Just for one province.

Item agreed to.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

609. Subject to the approval of the governor in council, notwithstanding vote 907, to authorize payments out of the funds of the Fraser Valley diking board in accordance with the agreement of March, 1950, between the government of Canada, the government of the province of British Columbia and the said board; and to authorize such payments by the government of Canada to the said board out of vote 907 as are necessary to provide for Canada's share of the amount required by the board to carry out the terms of the said agreement, \$1.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** May I have a break-down of this item 609?

**Mr. Abbott:** It is a little bit difficult to give a break-down. This item is the usual dollar item to give statutory authority to close out the operations of the Fraser valley diking board. Both the province of British Columbia and ourselves are anxious to complete these works and to complete the settlement by the dominion government. It may be that to make

[Mr. Blackmore.]

the final adjustment and to determine the final figures will run us beyond March 31. The dollar item will give statutory authority to make this payment out of the consolidated revenue fund.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I thank the minister. I just wanted to know how it was broken down.

Item agreed to.

610. To reimburse the Canadian wheat board for expenses incurred from August 1, 1948, to July 31, 1949, in the administration of delivery quotas and permit regulations, etc., \$96,455.

**Mr. Argue:** I had hoped that the Minister of Trade and Commerce might be in his seat now, but I see that he is not there at the present time.

**Mr. Green:** He was here a minute or so ago.

**Mr. Argue:** The Minister of Finance is here, in any event, as is also the Minister of Agriculture. Under this Canadian wheat board item, I want to refer to the statement made earlier today by the Minister of Trade and Commerce to the effect that ten cents a bushel will be paid out on oats this year and forty cents a bushel on barley. The minister went on to say that one of the reasons no payment would be considered on wheat was the attitude taken by the opposition. I hope he was not referring to my attitude. I at no time objected to the twenty cents having been paid last year. My objection was rather to the fact that when this amount was paid the farmers were not told the actual financial position of the wheat board at that time; and from statements of the Minister of Agriculture and others they assumed there would be a substantial payment this year.

My question is this. I should like the Minister of Agriculture, if he can, or the Minister of Finance—who I am sure know the financial position of the wheat board with respect to wheat just as they do with respect to oats and barley—to tell this committee and the farmers of western Canada approximately how much the payment on wheat is likely to be after the conclusion of this crop year. As the Minister of Trade and Commerce pointed out this afternoon, the farmers must undertake certain credit; and in doing that they would like to know the payment they will receive for oats and barley. I am not asking the minister to go out on a limb, but surely he can estimate reasonably closely the amount the payment will finally be.

**Mr. Abbott:** I am sorry that the Minister of Trade and Commerce is not here. He had expected that we would reach his estimates earlier this evening and he had to leave. I believe he will be here tomorrow. I will