

or sessional nature, as detailed in the schedule attached to the act. That supply will ordinarily run out about the end of this month, but I understand that there is to be royal assent tomorrow and that the other place proposes to adjourn for two weeks. Therefore I spoke to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) and the leaders of the other groups opposite and suggested they might be willing to pass additional interim supply today, an additional one-twelfth for most of the items, but in addition the full amount of two special items in the agriculture estimates. The first is item 485, amounting to \$2,030,500, which covers subsidies on milk for butter, cheese and concentration purposes. Payment of that subsidy is continuing now, but the subsidy terminated the end of April, and those payments should be made within the next few days. In addition there is \$6 million, included in the special supplementary estimates, to cover the subsidy on feed grain.

The passing of the bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of hon. members to criticize and discuss any item in the estimates, including these two special items, which will come up for discussion from time to time throughout the session; and the usual undertaking is given that those rights and privileges will not be restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

Mr. BRACKEN: The official opposition does not oppose the measure brought forward by the Minister of Finance. We are pleased to have his assurance that any of the items dealt with by this measure will be subject to discussion later, if it is the desire of any hon. member to do so.

Mr. ABBOTT: I give that assurance, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. COLDWELL: I was wondering about the two items in agriculture; I presume there will be a place in the estimates where these matters may be discussed.

Mr. ABBOTT: Yes.

Mr. COLDWELL: In any event, probably the minister would allow us to discuss these items on his item for administration.

Mr. GARDINER: I have discussed this matter with the Minister of Finance and I have given the undertaking to permit such discussion. If it is desired to have an item named now, I shall name the marketing item, No. 23.

Mr. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, by adopting the policy embodied in this resolution we are embarking upon a dangerous practice. The

sum of \$101 million is a lot of money; it is the money of the taxpayers. Here we are voting large sums of money for main and supplementary estimates down to March 31, 1947, and we did the same thing before Easter and sanctioned it all for a song. The total now is \$101 million. I thought the government proposed a new policy last session, and I should think it would not have been introduced now, two years after the war. We are at the sixty-seventh day of the session; we have not discussed the estimates at all, and yet eight-twelfths of the money has been spent. This goes on from month to month.

At the end of last March we rushed through a supplementary before Easter, but we cannot strike a dollar off, and there is no use in holding a post mortem when the money is voted and spent. The people are complaining that huge sums are being spent like water. Surely parliament should regain some control over these expenditures. The sum mentioned here is nearly four times what was spent in 1896, for the whole year, to run the country. But today we pass a vote for over \$101 million—unforeseen overdrafts—and we do it in the twinkling of an eye. Is that the way parliament is going to do its business?

Do not forget that this procedure of permitting expenditure of money by the executive, without the consent of the high court of parliament, is that same principle of taxation without representation, the principle for which the people in the American colonies were fighting when they tossed the tea into Boston harbour and afterwards left the mother country. Well, if that is responsible government under the Liberal party, a party which is going to hold a convention where they will talk for hours about responsible government, then we might as well say there is no responsible government left in this country.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (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 (Brantford City) in the chair.

Mr. ABBOTT moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year