

inquiry into conditions in countries to which persons might be travelling. They adopted what was supposed to be in the nature of a model form to be used by foreign countries to avoid the possibility of a traveller landing in a foreign country and then finding that his passport was of such a character as would not permit him to be admitted. Moreover, I should say that not only was the League of Nations' form the basis, but it was submitted to the Imperial authorities and they themselves suggested the regulations which should be put into the passport. It is the Imperial authorities who require the use of passports; we do not require it. As a matter of fact we have on several occasions drawn the attention of the British government to the fact that in our opinion it is an unfortunate obligation to be imposed on British subjects residing in Canada to have to secure passports in order to enter the British Isles. Only within the last few weeks I repeated to the British government the protest we have several times made during the past two or three years against the imposition of this obligation, but so far the British authorities have not seen their way to change the regulation and we are helpless in the matter of securing a reform. I shall have pleasure in directing the attention of the officers of the department more particularly to the subject of my hon. friend's speech this morning, and if it is at all possible to have the regulations simplified I shall be happy to see that this is done. The regulation appears to have been drafted on September 17, 1915; that was during the war when owing to the peculiar circumstances of the time it was no doubt imperative that the regulations should be rigid. But now that we are so far removed from circumstances of the kind it may be possible to secure a simplification of the regulation.

Mr. NEILL: That fact, that the regulations were made in the middle of the war was one of my complaints as they are so lacking in efficiency to prevent illegal passports. I hold in my hand a passport issued by the British authorities and it resembles those we issue; it is also similar to the standard form. It is not the passport itself that I find fault with but the cumbersome and inefficient method which is in vogue in obtaining it.

Item agreed to.

To provide for Canada's contribution towards the maintenance of the Permanent Secretariat of the League of Nations, \$168,353.29.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Will the minister state in a few words what has been accomplished by the League of Nations?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am afraid I could not do it in a few words.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I suppose we cannot do more than protest against an important item like this being left to the last few hours of the session. As a matter of fact the Prime Minister promised that there would be an opportunity to discuss this subject.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When the estimates of the Department of External Affairs were before the House there was ample opportunity for the discussion of these matters. The House, however, spent the greater part of the day dealing with the Lausanne treaty and there was no restriction upon any hon. member who wanted to take up any item that related to that department.

Item agreed to.

Grant to International Bee Keepers' Congress, \$2,500.

Mr. SHAW: This is a new item. What have we to do with the International Bees?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: A conference is to be held at Quebec in August or September of this year and this vote is a contribution thereto.

Item agreed to.

Government contracts, supervision committee, salaries, including that of L. R. La Fleche, secretary, \$6,000, and that of L. H. Beer, salvage officer, \$5,000, telephones and telegrams, travelling expenses, stationery, etc., \$30,000.

Mr. SHAW: This is an important item. What relation has it to the purchasing agents of the various departments?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The purpose of this estimate is pretty well expressed in the vote itself. There is a sub-committee of council which exercises supervision over all contracts and purchases of the government. To state the facts in a word, the committee exists for the purpose of supervising purchases and effecting economies and uniformity throughout the different branches.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: How may any firm have its name placed on the list of those eligible for orders?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: An effort is made, in calling for tenders, to get the names of as many firms as can be obtained, and any firm can send in its name to the government.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Is the tender principle followed?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes; the law requires that tenders shall be called for in all contracts above a certain amount.