

would proceed to the Senate Chamber at 4.30 p.m. this day for the purpose of pro-roguing the present session of Parliament.

The Senate adjourned until 2 p.m.

### Second Sitting.

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Routine proceedings.

### APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 5.

#### FIRST READING.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 44, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the financial year ending March 31, 1920.

The Bill was read the first time.

#### SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, the total amount of the Supply Bill is \$62,916,000. Honourable members, in perusing the contents, will observe that the major portion, almost the entire sum, is made up of two items which are the outcome of the policy of the Government regarding the demobilization of our forces. One item is \$20,000,000, which will be advanced on behalf of the Soldiers' Land Settlement scheme. The other is \$40,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations contained in the report on the soldiers' civil re-establishment. These two items absorb \$60,000,000 of the \$62,000,000, leaving \$2,916,000 to be applied to the different items contained in the Bill.

One of the other items refers to expenses incurred in connection with the Civil Service Commission, which were provided for in a Bill considered in this House and duly passed.

There is an item of \$2,000,000, an appropriation which is to be applied to payment for necessary supplies, food, clothing, fuel, and fodder for animals in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the necessity for which grows out of the shortage of the crop during the past year.

Hon. HEWITT BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, this Bill provides for the voting of a considerable amount of money at this session of Parliament. If this were the only session held this year the matter might not be so serious; but as this is an extra session, the voting of \$62,960,039 in addition

The Hon. the SPEAKER.

to what was voted last session, involves the raising of a large sum of money by loan or by taxation and increases the burdens on the people of this country. Of course, as my honourable friend has pointed out, the greater part of this amount is for the purpose of dealing with soldiers' civil re-establishment, as recommended in the report of the House of Commons Committee which has been sitting for a long time and has considered a number of the questions which have been exercising the minds of the public, and conditions which the soldiers generally have felt to constitute an unfair hardship to them. I hope that the report of the committee will result in satisfaction being given to these men, and will allay the unrest in the country which has been brought about to some extent by the feeling that a large number of the men who fought so well for us at the front and did such good for their country have not received at the hands of the Government the treatment to which they consider themselves entitled. I trust that the vote that is now being granted may help to a considerable extent in removing that dissatisfaction.

There is, further, an amount of \$20,000,000 to provide for "advances to soldiers settling upon the land, and cost of administering the Soldier Settlement Acts of 1917 and 1919, including clerical assistance." I forget what amount we voted at the end of last session, but the two amounts together will, I think, make a considerable total advanced for this purpose. The question has arisen in my mind whether this money has been handled to the greatest advantage for the men, whom presumably it is intended the money should benefit. Several complaints have been brought to my attention at different times regarding the way the soldiers have been treated in their attempt to locate on the land. In a large number of cases it has been felt that the machinery provided for the distribution of this money or for making a grant in a particular case has permitted of a great deal of delay, and in certain parts of the province from which I come the feeling has arisen among returned soldiers that the machinery is too cumbersome, and that there is too much red-tape in connection with this matter. The result of that has been that in certain cases the applicants have been delayed in getting onto the land and getting settled in a way that everybody it had been hoped and intended by that they should. I do not know that this is a place where we can very