

that no expenditure of money can be made by the commission unless authorized by Parliament?

Mr. ROWELL: That is the practice as it stands at the present time and I think no amendment would be necessary, but I will consider the matter and when the Bill is in committee again we can mention it.

Mr. McKENZIE: The words "estimates" and "requisitions" are used as substantially synonymous terms. One would suppose that "included in the Estimates" would mean the regular Estimates where provision is made for furnishing the necessary moneys but the use of the word "requisitions" takes away that meaning.

Mr. ROWELL: I would draw my hon. friend's attention to two sections which deal with requisitions and supplies respectively. He will see that section 12 provides for a written requisition. That contemplates a specific requisition for the actual supplies that may be required at any time. But the Government holds the opinion, upon the advice of the existing commission, that purchases may be made with great advantage if supplies, say for three months or for six months, are purchased instead of small supplies such as a department might requisition for a month or two, and also that it might be a great advantage to have the supplies of certain given commodities for all the departments made at the same time. Therefore, section 13 requires that all of the departments shall send in an estimate of the supplies they will probably require for such period or periods of time as the regulation may prescribe. The regulations may require each department to give an estimate of the supplies it will require for six months, or whatever period of time may be determined as being best from the point of securing the goods at the lowest price. If a department puts in an estimate then the commission may purchase on the basis of that estimate, or, if it puts in a specific requisition, the commission may purchase on the basis of that requisition. That is the reason why these two words are used in this clause.

Mr. LEMIEUX: In view of the explanation, I would most strenuously insist that provision be made that the expenditure should first be voted by Parliament. I quite understand that cases might arise where it would be obviously the duty of the commission to take the state of the market into consideration. For instance, I remember that when the new Parliament buildings were on the point of being commenced the parliamentary committee appointed to

supervise their erection decided to buy the steel framework of the building in advance because it was hinted to one of the members that the price of steel would go up by several points, as it did. Of course, there was a saving by that purchase. But that was a very extraordinary case that occurred during war time. In normal times the commission, I think—indeed, I am positive of it—should not go beyond the amount provided by Parliament for each of the departments. I think my hon. friend ought to make that clear in the Bill.

Mr. ROWELL: My present view is that that is clearly the law. There is absolutely no power whereby the commission could depart from it. However, I shall consider the matter and if it is not clear there is no objection to making it perfectly beyond question. The commission have no power, and the Auditor General would not permit them, to expend money not voted by Parliament. As my hon. friend knows, in certain emergencies public moneys may be expended under the Governor General's warrant, but only in special circumstances.

Mr. McKENZIE: The Bill should provide that each department should give an estimate of the amount of money that it will require. The Public Works Department, for instance, will require certain supplies, and it would simplify matters if the Minister of Public Works were obliged to have an item in his estimates providing for the quantity of supplies he was going to requisition, and that he should not exceed that quantity except for some special reason. It should be provided that the department would be limited to the amounts voted by Parliament. In that way the House would indirectly be in a position to ascertain the operations of the commission.

Mr. ROWELL: That is exactly what the procedure will be. The minister will have to come and get his supplies voted just as at present, and everything will be open to review.

On section 16—purchases to be by tender:

Mr. LEMIEUX: I move that this section be allowed to stand.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Will the minister consider the advisability of adding something to this section?

The CHAIRMAN: There is a motion by the hon. member for Maisonneuve that the section be allowed to stand. The motion is not debatable. If it is withdrawn the