

ernment is sure of the votes of its supporters. While they may criticise, as they did this afternoon, when it comes to a vote they are sure to support the ministry. Therefore such a suggestion cannot come from this side with any hope of success; at least, the amendments we have made so far have been voted down. The time is coming, and coming soon, when that will not be the case. But in the meantime what can Parliament do about it? It is for the minister to take the responsibility for this expenditure, and before he asks for an unlimited amount, say \$100,000 or \$200,000, he should consider well the advisability of eliminating unnecessary expenditure. This is not a time for unnecessary expenditure.

Mr. CANNON: Before this item is passed I wish again to protest against the principle of giving bounties to companies and corporations that do not need them. I object also to our voting a salary to an official who will distribute an amount which is nowhere mentioned in the Estimates. In other words, we are giving a blank cheque to the Department of Trade and Commerce and my right hon. friend can spend any amount he wishes; there is nothing to restrict or to curb his extravagance if he is inclined to be extravagant. If my right hon. friend's contention is correct that if an expenditure is authorized by statute he does not have to come back to the House and have the amount voted but can spend what he likes each year, the Government might as well introduce a Bill conferring upon themselves the power to spend a lump sum of say \$500,000,000. We would then have no budget; the usefulness of the House of Commons would disappear, and the Government would be able to run the country as they wish to run it.

Item agreed to.

Canada Year Book, \$20,000.

Mr. CAHILL: What is the reason for the increase?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It is due largely to the increase in the cost of paper.

Mr. CAHILL: How many of these books are distributed free, and what good purpose is served by spending \$20,000 for the Year Book? Is it worth the money to the people, and if so, in what way?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That might be a debatable question; it would depend upon one's point of view. I, myself, have no doubt as to the utility of the book and the usefulness of the purpose which it

serves. I know of no progressive country in the world which does not publish a year book of singular excellence. Our year book has been published for a number of years; its quality and efficacy, so to speak, have been increasing each year and I believe that Canada has to-day, with the possible exception of Australia, a year book as comprehensive, as well put up, and as consecutive in the information which it gives as that of any other country which publishes such a book. Last year we published an English edition of about 9,000 copies and a French edition of about 3,000 copies at a cost of \$22,000. The work is now done in the Printing Bureau; formerly that was not the case. A certain number of copies are distributed to libraries, chambers of commerce, and permanent institutions of that kind, where they are available to those who seek information concerning Canada. Then, a price, which is just about the cost of publication, is charged for all copies distributed, other than the complimentary copies of which I have spoken. One feature which has been introduced in the book is, I think, valuable. Each year an exhaustive article is published dealing with one particular phase of Canada's development—whether concerning her history, her mineral wealth, or otherwise—so as to bring up to date all the information in compendious form with reference to that subject. Then in succeeding publications there is a reference column to articles which appeared in the preceding books, so that if one does not find in this year's book the information which he seeks he may refer to the previous volume dealing with the subject.

Mr. CAHILL: How many have been distributed each year?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I cannot tell my hon. friend the number, but I can get the information for him.

Mr. BELAND: The information in the book covers the calendar year?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. BELAND: I have noticed that the Canadian Almanac contains more recent information in some respects than that which appears in the Canada Year Book.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes, that is bound to be the case. The Year Book is not so much a pocket volume containing strictly up-to-date information as a permanent record. It takes a good deal of time to prepare it and get it published.