

*Supply—Naval Service*

to be looked after as a result of different advice, it may be dealt with by a Governor General's warrant. I do not think it should be admitted even to the extent of inserting the item in the estimates. We have a claim for a very much larger amount which England as steadily declined to admit. Unless I am very much astray in my recollection, I think the fact is that we have already settled cross accounts with the Admiralty on the basis of New York exchange, and I think, therefore, no action should be taken in this matter.

Mr. FIELDING: There is a large question between this Government and the British government in connection with the matter of exchange, and we must be prepared to give and take; whatever we lay down on one side we expect to claim on the other. My impression is that, if this claim be approved, it would require an appropriation of Parliament to pay it. Therefore, my hon. friend may be wise in inserting the item, but I quite concur in the view that he had better not be in a hurry to make payment until the whole matter is adjusted.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I certainly agree that he should not be in a hurry to make payment. I am quite sure that the whole matter will be properly and fairly adjusted. When it once gets to the British government and out of the routine of the offices, I do not think there will be much difficulty in adjusting the matter. I have no doubt, when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) takes a very well earned holiday this summer and goes over to England, he will be able to adjust the whole of this matter without any difficulty.

Mr. DUFF: I think the minister said, in explaining the details of this item, that part of it was for war medals. The department issued a war service badge which was very unsatisfactory, and many complaints have come to the Minister of the Naval Service and his officials. I have received, in the last two or three years, probably two or three hundred letters from young men who received this war service badge which was issued to men who served in the Canadian navy or to Canadians who served overseas in the British navy. The badge was very much larger than the one issued to the soldiers, and these young men claim that it should be similar to the one issued to soldiers, instead of the large white badge which was issued by the Naval Department. I have, upstairs in my room, about a dozen of these badges which were

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

sent to me by these boys. They would not keep them, and they asked me to bring the matter to the attention of the Minister of Naval Service and to ask him to have issued a new badge which would be satisfactory to them. They want one the same size as the one issued to the soldiers, which badge was quite satisfactory. This will cost a very small sum of money, and these young men, who risked their lives on the sea, should receive some consideration from the Government. I trust the Minister of Naval Service will look after this matter and issue the badges to the naval men.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): I understood the minister to say that one of the items contained in this very large appropriation is for reconditioning or repairs to certain vessels, known as drifters. We had a very large number of most curiously constructed, queer looking vessels floating around the coast of the maritime provinces. I do not know where they were built, and anybody who knows about conditions there knows they were of no value during the war. I cannot understand why we should be now voting money for vessels of that kind. Some of them belong to the Canadian Government, but I do not know whether there were brought across the Atlantic any that belonged to the Imperial government.

Mr. GRAHAM: As a matter of fact, these were trawlers or drifters that were built in Canada on the order of the Imperial government and lent to Canada. The contract with the Imperial government was that we should repair them and place them in the same condition as they were before. None of these items, of course, will be paid without the fullest scrutiny.

With regard to the medals, I must admit that the medals issued by the Naval Department have called forth a good deal of protest. Many that were issued by the British Admiralty were large. The Naval Department, I understand, has issued some that were smaller; but so far as I could learn, neither the larger nor the smaller were quite satisfactory. We will go into the matter and see if any alteration can be made in the design of the badges.

Item agreed to.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think there was an understanding with my right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) that we might go on with Public Works to-night, although that was not the understanding last night.