

the balance of the money towards the payment of the public debt.

Mr. NEILL: Is the hon. member aware, or will he tell the House, that the Canadian Government Merchant Marine on the Pacific coast is a public benefit and a profitable one? It is only in the effete East that it has proved unprofitable.

Mr. DUFF: My hon. friend has stated that the Canadian Government Merchant Marine ships on the Pacific coast are beneficial and profitable. I do not know if they are profitable or not, but I doubt that very much. I cannot understand why they should be beneficial, when millions of tons of shipping are lying idle in almost every principal port in the world, ships that would be very glad to carry the cargoes which the Canadian Government Merchant Marine are carrying from Vancouver and other Canadian ports.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): They would not be Canadian ships.

Mr. DUFF: They would be British.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): American.

Mr. DUFF: This government has no right to vote the people's money to pay the deficit of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine ships when there is tonnage to carry every dollar's worth of goods on either the Pacific or the Atlantic coast.

I want to refer for a moment to some of the items under Miscellaneous which amount to \$14,000,000. This is a very large amount, and of course some of it is necessary. I am sure nobody will object to the item of \$2,200,000 which it voted and spent to provide for the administration of the business profits war tax. Everybody realizes that a large amount of money is collected through this source, and it is necessary to have a large staff of officials to collect this amount. The only regret I have is that there are not more farmers in this country, especially in the West, who can pay a business profits tax and an income tax.

There are, however, several amounts on which I think we could save this year. First, there is a grant of \$15,000 to the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts' Association. I believe under present conditions that money should not be voted and should be saved to the ratepayers of this country. There is a grant of \$3,000 in aid of the Dominion Council of the Girl Guides. Of course, it is very nice for certain religious bodies in this country to get together the young ladies in their congregations and to put them through certain physical training; but under present

[Mr. Duff].

financial conditions in this country, these churches should arrange to pay the expenses of these organizations themselves and not come to this government for any grant.

Another item is Purchasing Commission, \$72,000. I believe there is no necessity for paying \$72,000 for a Purchasing Commission, when in the Public Works department, Marine and Fisheries department and every other department there is a purchasing agent. It seems to me that these purchasing agents should be able to purchase the goods that are required, and that this \$72,000 could be saved to the taxpayers of this country. I feel sure the hon. member for Springfield will realize, on consideration, that when the government has to raise practically \$500,000,000 and most of it can be spent economically in the best interests of this country, it is pretty hard for the government to retrench very much in the matter of expenditures.

Mr. LEADER: Might I ask the hon. gentleman a question—and I am asking it in a friendly spirit—does he not think that the grant of \$5,000 to the boat race off the coast of Nova Scotia might be done away with this year?

Mr. DUFF: I agree absolutely with the hon. gentleman, and since he has brought up this point, I might say that I consider the \$5,000 voted last year for that purpose was the best expenditure that this government or any other government could make.

Mr. LEADER: You beat the other fellow.

Mr. DUFF: Yes, we beat the other fellow. But let me tell my hon. friend that this is not an ordinary yacht race; it is a fishermen's race. This race is run by fishing vessels; the boats are manned by actual fishermen, and it is a good thing for the country because it develops a spirit of rivalry. Last year no less than fifteen new fishing schooners were built because the owners and captains wanted to compete with the vessels which won the race in 1921. In spite of the depression in Nova Scotia to-day, in my constituency sixteen new fishing schooners are being built practically as a result of that fishermen's race.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Are they needed?

Mr. DUFF: I do not quite understand the hon. member's question.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): My question is in reference to my hon. friend's last remark. Are these fishing schooners being built for the purpose of racing only, or for fishing purposes?