

ESTIMATES.

Appropriations of Interest to Civil Servants.

The main estimates presented to the House of Commons cover generally the regular expenditures, and are not much more interesting than the index of a book. Those expenditures that are of an unusual character are covered by the supplementary estimates. The most recent list of these notes to come before Parliament is that for the year ending 31st March, 1917.

The activity due to the forthcoming quinquennial census of the West and to the growing demand for statistical information is reflected in a vote of \$9,600 to provide for 16 3B clerkships in the Census and Statistics Branch at \$600 each.

So-called "compassionate allowances" are proposed for the dependents of those public employees who lost their lives in the Parliament Buildings fire. Considering that these men were killed in the discharge of their duty just as much as any soldier shot in the trenches, the difference between the pensions allowed soldiers' widows and the compassionate allowance" in this case is quite marked. The beneficiaries in these cases are Mme. Laplante, widow of the late Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons, who receives \$5,000, and the families of Alphonse Desjardins, sr., Alphonse Desjardins, jr., and Robert Fanning, who receive \$2,000 each.

It is estimated that it will cost \$2,000 to repair the books of the Library injured but saved in the Parliament Buildings fire.

An improvement long agitated for by *The Civilian* is to be made at once—a new fireproof roof to replace the present fire-trap roof of the Eastern Block on Parliament Hill. The estimate for this is \$240,000.

Considering that the priceless

documents of the Privy Council, Justice and other important departments are stored in this building, and that lives infinitely more precious are endangered by the existing condition of the building, this improvement is one to rejoice over.

For the restoration of the Parliament Buildings \$1,500,000 is voted.

Fire escapes to the value of \$15,000 are to be provided for the Ottawa buildings and of \$10,000 for buildings in other parts of the Dominion. Drill has been held with these fire escapes in some buildings, ladies as well as men stepping bravely out into space from upper storey windows supported only by a rope. The knowledge of the fact that the fire escape is there and of just how it is to be used may save lives some day.

The Dominion is extending—there are votes of \$5,000 each for immigration buildings at Spirit River and Peace River Crossing in the far North.

The question of the treatment of officers killed or disabled on duty is further illustrated by gratuities and allowances of \$1,000 each to the dependants of several employees of the Public Works and other departments, and also by "compassionate allowances" to the widow of James Murray, oceanographer, and the widowed mother of Henry Beuchat, anthropologist of the Canadian Arctic expedition, and the widow of A. E. Matthews, fishery guardian.

The new business profits war tax will employ a good many civil servants. The initial vote for its operation is \$150,000.

Suggestive Advice.

(Guelph Herald.)

Canadian papers are issuing "warnings to canoeists." The only proper advice to give a canoeist is to keep his head down when he reaches the trenches.