

Supply—Secretary of State

patents. This is a matter in which it would be well for the printing bureau to produce costs and perhaps compare costs with outside sources so that we can see whether the actual cost of the printing of a patent is as much as the patent office is paying now. Mr. Justice Ilsley will not be examining the cost of printing patents at all.

The Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Mr. Pickersgill: Before we pass the item, can the minister give the balance of revenues and expenditures?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): For the present fiscal year, receipts, \$1,672,000; expenditures for salaries, printing and other matters amount to a total of \$2,463,000; or a deficit of \$791,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is a considerable burden on the taxpayers generally. I wonder whether the minister has given any thought to that problem?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes. The minister is doing his best to give thought to these problems.

Item agreed to.

Special—

687. Special expenditure in connection with a commission under the Inquiries Act to inquire into the workings of the Patent Act, the Copyright Act, the Industrial Designs Act, and other related legislation—further amount required, \$13,000.

Mr. Richard (Ottawa East): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance what is the total cost to date of the royal commission on patent, copyright and industrial design and whether any further amount is expected to be expended outside of this supplementary estimate.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It is expected that this estimate will complete the cost of the royal commission. I refer to this item of \$13,000. The item in the main estimate was \$11,900.

Mr. Richard (Ottawa East): What is the total to date?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I am afraid I cannot give that information to the hon. gentleman offhand but if he wants the amount for the previous years included, I shall be glad to make inquiries and send it to him.

Mr. Howard: Before we proceed to discuss the item I wonder whether I might ask the minister again at this time, as I have asked him on other occasions, whether he will consider, not only in the supplementary estimates but in the main estimates also, so arranging the printing that the number of the vote appears in the details section of the pages

[Mr. Richard (Ottawa East).]

also as well as in the front section in order to make it easier to find the particular item one is looking for. I raised this matter with the present minister and other ministers. Everyone seems to think it is a good idea but no one seems to get around to taking any action in the matter. Are there any complications or reasons why it could not be done?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Of course nothing can be done about the matter this coming year because the main estimates have been printed. However, I shall be glad to give study to the hon. member's suggestion.

Mr. Howard: That is what the minister said last year when I asked him the same question on the main estimates. In any event, I hope that perhaps later on we shall get some indication as to what is the situation.

I wonder whether the minister can indicate when he might expect the commission to complete its inquiry especially in so far as its studies of the Patent Act are concerned?

Mr. Richard (Ottawa East): The report is being printed now.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes. The Acting Secretary of State referred to that matter in the house a few days ago. A report has been submitted by the royal commission and it is being printed now.

Mr. Howard: I did not realize that was the situation or did not appreciate it.

Perhaps I might be a bit out of order but I will attempt to say what I have in mind anyway, Mr. Chairman, knowing that, with the ability you have, you will soon come to a conclusion as to whether I am in order or out of order. However, I will try my best to stay as close as I can to the question of this royal commission and the issue of patents in a preliminary way and perhaps expand on that matter later on under the main estimates dealing with the patent office.

Some days ago, in answer to a question of mine an order for return was made and a return was issued with respect to drugs and pharmaceuticals in the drug manufacturing industry, especially antibiotics and some of the tranquillizers and as to those about whom patents had been issued. The return was granted. I have not got it with me at the moment, but in a preliminary way I would like to say that the drugs I referred to in the question which was answered cover entirely, or almost entirely, the whole range of antibiotic or wonder type drugs which exist and are in use in Canada. Without mentioning the names, generally they are in the tetracycline group, and so on. The return showed that pages and pages of patents have been