

not propose to proceed with new public works during the continuance of the war. It is desirable, however, I think, that the items should remain in the estimates as they have already been voted more than once. For instance, it might happen that the war would be over before the money is voted again. We have no reason to believe at present that such will be the case, but it is a contingency which none of us can absolutely dismiss. I do not think there is any harm in permitting these estimates to stand, as the Government has already given the assurance that it does not intend to proceed with new works while the war continues.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I doubt very much whether not proceeding with new works will account for the large sum of \$30,000,000. Does not my right hon. friend see—

The CHAIRMAN: I must say to the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) that out of courtesy to him as an old parliamentarian, and in view of the fact that he wished to make his protest while the Prime Minister was present, I did not take objection to his course. I must say, however, that the hon. gentleman is out of order, and if he purposes to continue, I must respectfully call his attention to subsection 5, of rule 13:

Speeches in Committee of the Whole must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under consideration.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I will make it strictly relevant to the item under discussion. As you will see, item 309 is to provide "For supply of Canadian publications to Library of High Commissioner's Office." I have a right to know whether this is one of the items that it is intended to expend; therefore I am quite in order in the remarks I have to make. Does not my right hon. friend see that if we have to ask questions on all items that go to make up this enormous sum of \$30,000,000, it will take us weeks to get the information? If my right hon. friend thinks these items should be left in the Estimates, surely he will not think it unreasonable that there should be a statement prepared of the items which it is not proposed to expend.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I will bring the observations of my hon. friend to the attention of the Minister of Finance. I understand that this particular item will be expended.

Mr. PUGSLEY: This is not a large amount, but it is by the thousand and

one such items in these Estimates that this \$30,000,000 is arrived at. At such a time as this we might very well defer the buying of new books for the library of the High Commissioner's office. If the High Commissioner and his staff do their duty, they will be devoting their attention to matters connected with the war, and they will not have much time to read the books in the library, so that they will not require much of this additional expenditure of \$1,000. I take it that this library is merely for the use of the officials of the High Commissioner's office and not for the use of the public. I fail to understand why \$1,000 should be expended at this time when money is so urgently required for other purposes.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: If my hon. friend will confer with the hon. gentleman just behind him (Mr. Macdonald), he will understand that it is very important for the officials of the High Commissioner's office to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the capabilities of Canadian industries from day to day and to know the progress of the business affairs of this country.

Mr. GRAHAM: They can get that information in Government returns.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend will realize the great importance, at this particular time, of the officials of the High Commissioner's office keeping themselves thoroughly informed of what is going on in this country.

Mr. OLIVER: In regard to the advisability of keeping items standing in the Estimates because they were voted in good faith some years before, if we are to appreciate the statement made by the Minister of Finance in his Budget speech, we must realize that we are facing new conditions in regard to matters of finance, and that the conditions that prevailed two years ago when these items were voted, will never again prevail. We are already shouldering burdens that were never contemplated at that time, and we certainly shall have to shoulder still greater burdens. I think we hardly appreciate the tremendous change that has occurred in our financial situation, when we keep in the Estimates from year to year items that were originally voted under very different circumstances.