

*Interim Supply***GRAIN**SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF REPORT OF BOARD OF
GRAIN COMMISSIONERS TO COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will the minister have the annual report of the board of grain commissioners referred to the agriculture committee during the present session?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The annual report of the board of grain commissioners has not been received by the minister. I understand it is being printed at the present time. When it is received I shall be glad to consider the situation of that day and give my hon. friend an answer.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Abbott moved:

That a sum not exceeding \$534,871,213.17, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the items to be voted, as set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1954, laid before the House of Commons at the present session of parliament; and in addition thereto, a sum not exceeding \$207,500, being one-quarter of the amount of item 433, a sum not exceeding \$372,512.84, being one-sixth of the amount of items 199, 201, 204, 205, and a sum not exceeding \$2,223,289.17, being one-twelfth of the amount of items 19, 37, 62, 435, 436, 439, of the said estimates be granted to Her Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1954.

He said: Mr. Chairman, the bill to be founded on this resolution will provide for the usual one-sixth of all the items to be voted in the main estimates for the fiscal year which commences on the 1st day of April, 1953, and an additional one-quarter of one special item, namely, the international trade fair, where the major portion of the expenditures have to be met in the early part of the year; and an additional one-sixth of four other special items, which include the sessional expenses of this house and the other place; the unemployment insurance commission; certain additional costs for the transfer of labour; and an additional one-twelfth of six other special items, two of them in the Department of Agriculture, one of them relating to the experimental farm service and the other freight assistance on western feed grain where an expenditure of an additional amount is due early in the year, and three items in trade and commerce, electricity and gas inspection service, weights

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

and measures inspection service; and the dominion bureau of statistics, certain census expenses.

In no instance of course is the total amount of any item being released. These special items are substantially the same as the ones that I asked for in the first interim supply at the last session. The form of the bill is the same as the bill which was passed at this time last year. As usual, I give the undertaking that the passing of the bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of members to criticize and discuss any item in the estimates which will come up for consideration from time to time during the remainder of the session, and the usual undertaking is given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as the result of the passing of this measure.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Is it not unusual to have interim supply in the year preceding the year in respect of which it is granted? In other words, is it not unusual to ask that these moneys be given before the end of the fiscal year itself?

Mr. Abbott: Well, my recollection is that it is the customary thing to do it in that way. On April 1 we must have money to pay civil salaries and the expenses which are incurred in the fiscal year. I am speaking from memory, but my recollection is that it is usual, a day or two before the end of the fiscal year, to ask for interim supply. It seemed to me that it might be convenient to deal with interim supply and to deal with the final supplementary estimates at the same time, and I brought it on today.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Beaudoin in the chair.

Mr. Abbott moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1954, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, namely:

1. The sum of \$534,871,213.17, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1954;

2. The sum of \$207,500, being one-quarter of the amount of item 433 of the said estimates;