

concerned the word "special" should be removed. They are ordinary supplementary estimates. I ask the minister: Is it likely that his department will bring down another special supplementary estimate, or does he think he has included everything here to cover the whole program for the rest of the year?

Mr. CARDIN: Well, I hope I have included everything. There is always the possibility of something else being brought to the house a little later.

Mr. STEWART: Well, are we to have these special supplementaries and then further supplementaries? When are we going to get to the end?

Mr. CARDIN: As my hon. friend knows, the reports and requests come in regularly to the department even after the estimates have been tabled, and we have to consider requests coming in from all over the country. There is no stop. Requests and petitions keep coming in all the time.

Mr. STEWART: I suggest that if the minister announce that he has closed the chapter for this year he might save himself a lot of trouble.

Mr. CARDIN: I would not undertake to do that. I might even hear from my hon. friend; there might be some reports coming from his constituency for works which are justified, so I want to keep the opportunity open of giving something to him.

Mr. STEWART: I think things are in fairly good shape in the county of Leeds.

Mr. CARDIN: No doubt.

Mr. STEWART: There was one item I wrote the minister about, a little bit of dredging which I thought would have been done out of the general fund, and I so suggested. But he was kind enough to give it the publicity of appearing in the regular estimates.

Mr. CARDIN: I welcome any suggestion to reduce the length of the estimates.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member would prefer a blank cheque, I am sure. May I put it in this way; in fact, may I put it exactly as it was put by one who used to occupy this seat? Is this not an effort, and a very clear one, to lessen the apparent capital expenditures of the country in the main estimates, and to pad these as relief, thereby escaping, what everybody knows now, the swollen estimates of 1936-37?

There have not been presented to this parliament, I suppose for half a generation, main

estimates that did not contain a general provision for dominion public buildings, improvements and repairs, in the western provinces. That provision is found in all the estimates. Where it should have been was in the main estimates, or in the supplementary estimates which come at the end of the session. What is happening is that this is so arranged as to make it appear that for relief purposes we are voting this money, when in reality it is not a vote for relief at all. The main estimates are swollen accordingly; we all know that. I wonder that you thought we were so foolish for so long. The minister makes the situation quite clear; this estimate should not be here, but it looks well to put it here rather than put it into the main estimates and make those estimates look larger than they should.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There are provisions in the main estimates for dominion public buildings in every province. This is supplementary.

Mr. BENNETT: Then you simply double the amount; that is all. The amount was not sufficient. Now you say: Look how we are practising economy; look how we cut down on the estimates. And now in these special supplementaries we are asked for another \$15,000 for Manitoba, another vote for British Columbia and another for Alberta. The Minister of National Defence knows that is a very simple way to do it—put it into the main estimates, but do not put in enough and say: Behold the economy practised by thy servant. Then turn the other way and say: Look at what we have done for unemployment. No wonder the Minister of the Interior laughs. Even his sense of humour—and that is saying a good deal—is appealed to. And anyone will admit that if this appeals to the sense of humour of the Minister of the Interior it must be very clear indeed, so I will leave it at that.

Mr. CRERAR: I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that no one more frequently appeals to my sense of humour than does the leader of the opposition.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; I thought the hon. member would be able to say that.

Item agreed to.

Saskatchewan—dominion public buildings—improvements and repairs, \$15,000.

Mr. BENNETT: The same thing.

Item agreed to.