

unduly committing the opposition to the principle, I would ask that the item stand, Mr. Chairman, and we can proceed with other items in my estimates.

Item stands.

The Hemp Bounties Act, 1923, administration of, \$500.

Mr. SANDERSON: This is the same amount as was voted last year. I wish the minister would tell the committee just how that bounty worked out last year, the amounts that were paid, and who were the recipients.

Mr. STEVENS: This is a small item for travelling expenses and incidentals in connection with the administration of the Hemp Bounties Act. The bounty paid during the calendar year 1931 was \$26,580.

Mr. SANDERSON: Paid to whom?

Mr. STEVENS: The only claimant for 1930 was the Manitoba Cordage Company.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: How much did they get?

Mr. STEVENS: They got \$22,594.64.

Mr. DONNELLY: How was this paid, by the hundredweight?

Mr. STEVENS: Last year the rate was seven-eighths of a cent per pound.

Mr. SANDERSON: I think this matter of bounties does not work in the right way. As I understand it, the manufacturer is paid the bounty instead of the grower. Is it correct that there is no bounty paid to the grower?

Mr. STEVENS: There is nothing paid to the grower.

Mr. SANDERSON: I could understand that it might be of some use to the agricultural sections if a bounty were paid for the growing of hemp, but when you pay it to the manufacturer it simply means a bonus to the manufacturer from which no one else gets any benefit. I think this is a time when such an item should be struck out. I would not reduce it by ten per cent; I would reduce it by one hundred per cent.

Mr. STEVENS: I must confess that I am inclined to agree with my hon. friend, but I find that we are bound by the act which was passed in 1923, and which expires in 1933. We are simply carrying out the provisions of the statute. I should like my hon. friend to note that the ratio of the bounty drops year by year. In 1926, the first year it was paid, the bounty was 1½ cents. Then it be-

[Mr. Stevens.]

came 1½, 1¼, 1½, 1; last year it was seven-eighths and for the current year it will be three-quarters of a cent. In 1933 it will be ½ cent, and then the statute will expire and the bounty will cease.

Mr. SANDERSON: It makes no difference to me, as a member of this house, that the act was passed under a Liberal government. At the time I was convinced that it was wrong.

Mr. CHAPLIN: You did not say so.

Mr. SANDERSON: You do not know whether I said so or not. Sometimes my hon. friend from Lincoln has a long memory, and sometimes his memory is short. I am still convinced, Mr. Chairman, that it would be a good thing to wipe out this bounty completely, and I am inclined to think the minister agrees with me. This parliament, and especially this government, is all powerful. The matter of a mere act should not embarrass a government such as we have in power now, so I will move that this item be struck out.

Mr. STEVENS: Before my hon. friend secures a seconder for that motion I should like to indicate to him that this is contractual. We may not agree with all that was done previously or all that is being done at present by statute, but where a contract has been entered into, the country is duty bound to carry it out. Unquestionably certain industries were induced to carry on the work of manufacturing this hemp by reason of the bounty, and it would not be fair or equitable for parliament to pass an act authorizing the payment of a bounty for a period of ten years, secure the establishment of an industry under that act, and then, at some period during the existence of the bounty cancel it. Certainly parliament can do as it likes; but I submit to my hon. friend that the gesture he now makes is not one that will carry the judgment of the house, whatever may be his or my opinion with regard to the payment of bounties of this character.

Mr. DONNELLY: Is this bounty paid on the hemp before it is retted or after? Do we keep a man in the factory to weigh it or do we take the word of the manufacturer? How is the amount of hemp brought in estimated?

Mr. STEVENS: The act is administered under a contract, which I have before me. For the moment I speak subject to correction because I have not the exact details in my mind, but I believe payment is made on the hemp which enters into the manufacture of

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