

excellent work. It is true the provinces are doing their share, but the help given to this institution of late has been meagre compared to what has been done in the past. The society is doing an invaluable work in endeavouring to eradicate a dreadful disease and it deserves greater consideration.

Mr. STEVENS: So far as I can see there is no grant in the main estimates for this institution; this would appear to be the total grant.

Mr. McGIBBON: When you think of what is being done to eradicate diseases from amongst the animals in the country and then look at what assistance is being given for the eradication of such a disease as this amongst the people the contrast is odious enough.

Mr. DUNNING: What would be a reasonable grant?

Mr. McGIBBON: \$25,000.

Mr. DUNNING: That is what they are getting.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: Does this mean an increase in the vote?

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Item agreed to.

Pension—to provide for pension to Captain J. E. Bernier, \$1,767.74.

Mr. SPENCER: May we have some explanation of this item?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Captain Bernier is a very old employee of the government; he was first engaged by the Marine and Fisheries department and later in the Department of the Interior in expeditions up the east coast to the Arctic circle. He is now seventy-four years of age and has been retired. Not being pensionable, under any superannuation law I am asking parliament to vote him this pension for the rest of his days, in order to place him on a parity with other civil servants.

Mr. SPENCER: The reason I asked was to find out why he was not pensionable?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): He did not come under the provisions of the Superannuation Act; a good many of our civil servants were not fortunate enough to come under that act, and this is the only way we can take care of them.

Item agreed to.

National Defence—militia services—non-permanent active militia, \$50,000.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): May I ask an explanation of this?

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of National Defence): I am told that this amount was really included previously in a general vote for bonuses. As I understand it, the bonus was done away with and when the main estimates of the department were made up this amount was not included, it being thought the bonus would come out of the general vote. It was found that that was not so, and this amount had to be put in to take care of the increased salaries which were provided instead of the bonus.

Mr. HANSON: Bonuses for what?

Mr. RALSTON: For civilian salaries and charges on the department.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This is for the non-permanent active militia. I understood this represented an additional amount used last summer on training.

Mr. RALSTON: The leader of the opposition will agree with me that a certain amount of the salaries and wages at headquarters are chargeable to the permanent and non-permanent militia alike.

Item agreed to.

Naval services—further amount required for the maintenance of ships and establishments of the naval service, \$100,000.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Could the minister give us a word of explanation on this item? My reason for asking is that last summer, in July or August, while I was presiding over the department of National Defence for a time, it was represented to me that a heavy expenditure was very necessary in regard to our naval service in order to make it seaworthy. One of the training ships or one of the destroyers on the Atlantic coast, I think, was represented as being unseaworthy; it was said that she would have to go to the West Indies to take part in the imperial naval manoeuvres with a crew of something like one hundred young lads who were in training, and in the opinion of the officers of the department the boat could not be used for this purpose without involving serious risk of life. Is this amount which we are now asked to vote intended to put these ships in repair? I assume the money was spent during the past year. For what purpose was it used, and are these two destroyers now in a seaworthy condition?

Mr. RALSTON: I am advised that this is not for the purpose referred to by my hon. friend. I think practically all of this amount is for the purpose of bringing our accounts with the British Admiralty up to date. We owe the admiralty a good deal of money for