

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Golding in the chair.

On section 1—How expenses shall be met.

Mr. GRAYDON: In dollars and cents, to what extent has the business in the office of public printing and stationery increased from the time the act was originally passed until the present time, when the maximum expenditure may amount to \$2 million? I do not suggest that office is spending \$2 million, but that is the amount in prospect.

Mr. MARTIN: I have not the figures to show the expenditures when the office of king's printer was established. I would answer, however, by pointing out that the total expenditures by the king's printer, covering both inside and outside printing and stationery, and other miscellaneous revenue, were, in 1939, \$4,995,000. In 1945-46 it was about \$12 million, or almost three times as much. Of course that was due to a great extent to necessarily increased business during the war. The king's printer estimates that, while the amount in 1946-47 will not be in the neighbourhood of \$12 million, it will likely be somewhere between \$4 million and \$12 million. This is largely due to the increased pressure of business and the demands made on the office of the king's printer. In any event, the amount is well over the \$2 million advance.

Mr. GRAYDON: What is the difference between the amount spent by the government for printing in the year before the war broke out and the amount spent in the present year?

Mr. MARTIN: I cannot say what it will be next year. However, it will be somewhere between \$4 million and \$12 million; perhaps about \$6 million.

Mr. GRAYDON: What about the year before the war?

Mr. MARTIN: In that year, 1938-39, the gross turnover was about \$5 million.

Mr. MACKENZIE: May I point out that this year we have more committees doing more detailed work than has been done at any time in the last fifteen years. They have all asked that their reports be printed.

Mr. GRAYDON: I fancy the work of printing which can be related directly to parliament is only a small percentage of the work done by the king's printer. I imagine the increase in work in that office arises to a great extent from documents sent in to the office from outside for printing. For instance, I fancy that the printing charges for the House of Commons, including the printing of

Hansard and other house documents, while possibly of considerable extent in themselves, at the same time do not comprise the greater share of the work done by the king's printer. I am wondering whether it is the policy of the government to cut down on unnecessary printing done by the king's printer. An enormous amount of money is being spent by the government upon all kinds of informational and publicity work. This matter has been up before the house on a previous occasion, and I should not like to consent to this bill going through committee unless there was some undertaking by the government that there will be a definite and effective curb upon the printing being put out by the government. If there ever was a government that seemed to be printing-ink conscious, it is this one. I hope the minister will be able to give some undertaking that economies will be effected.

Mr. MARTIN: Special attention is being given to that particular point. While it is not a new post, there is a controller, an official of the department, who pays strict attention to unnecessary expenditure. I may say that the king's printer has so much business to do even now that he cannot possibly handle the full requirements with his own staff and equipment; and every effort is being made, both by the administration and the king's printer, to avoid unnecessary work which means unnecessary expenditure.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is any work that would normally be done by the king's printer farmed out or sublet to other firms in Canada?

Mr. MARTIN: During the war there was a great amount. During that period the king's printer was unable to handle forty per cent of the requisitions that were made. That work was farmed out, as it has always been farmed out in varying amounts almost from the time the office of king's printer was established in 1889. Of course, during the days of peace the amount farmed out is not as much as it was during the days of war; but in the light of the present state of the equipment and in the light of the space which the king's printer has at his disposal, there is not much hope of our giving assurance that we can handle all the work, even exercising the greatest diligence on the side of economy. However, the king's printer does a substantial part of it, and to the extent that he does the cost, as compared with work done by commercial firms, is on the side of economy.

Mr. BOUCHER: Could the minister give more details as to the amount of work done outside during the past three years?