

by the committee last year, but was defeated by the Senate railway committee.

A National Bureau of Standards should be established in Canada, according to a report of the select committee on Scientific and Industrial Research which was presented to the House of Commons on May 7. Hume Cronyn, chairman of the committee, has been a strong supporter of the movement for national research. It is recommended that such an institute should be located on a site of 50 acres in the vicinity of Ottawa, conveniently located for water, gas and electric power supply, and that the first building should be constructed of the best modern material suitable for laboratory work. It is estimated that \$650,000 would be required to carry out the plan proposed. \$500,000 of this amount to be used for the purchase of the site and the construction of the building, \$100,000 for the purchase of scientific equipment, and \$50,000 for salaries and maintenance the first year. The committee recommended that this amount should be provided by the government this year and that necessary legislation should be enacted at this session of Parliament.

Civil Service Act

A government Civil Service Superannuation Act, introduced by Hon. J. A. Calder, applies to all Dominion government employees except temporary ones. The Civil Service Commission will report at once on all who are over 65, and they can remain in the service only upon certificates of efficiency. Every government employee over 60 who is retired will receive two months' salary. Where the service has been over 10 years he or she will be paid for every year of service one-sixtieth of the average salary received in the three years previous to retirement, but not to exceed in any case one-half the salary.

This is the pension provision. As for retiring gratuities the scale is graduated. Those between 55 and 60 will get one month's salary for each year of service, but not more than eight months; between 50 and 55 years one month's salary for every two years' service, but not more than six months' salary in all; between 45 and 50 the scale provides one month's salary for every four years, not exceeding in all four months' salary. Where a government employee becomes physically disabled the gratuities may be increased, but not more than doubled, if the Civil Service Commission so recommends.

The agitation for an increase in the sessional indemnity from the present figure of \$2,500 to \$4,000 or possibly \$5,000 has petered out. The government took the view that such an increase would not be consistent with its policy of reducing expenditures.

An increase in the maximum registration fee from five to ten cents on letters or other articles sent by registered mail is proposed in a resolution introduced in the Commons on May 7 by the Minister of Customs and Inland Revenue. The resolution, which will be considered in Parliament at an early date, also proposes an increased postage on weekly newspapers and periodicals within a distance of forty miles from the place of publication. Between January 1, 1921, and January 1, 1922, the rate is to be one cent, and one and a half cents thereafter. It is not proposed to eliminate the free postage facilities enjoyed by members during sessions.

New Canadian Cent Coined

Authority has been given for the issue of the new Canadian cent and the first ones were struck on May 19. The coin will not, however, actually be in circulation till toward the end of the month. The cent is slightly larger than the Canadian ten-cent piece, or three-quarters of an inch in diameter. It bears the following design: Obverse impression: His Majesty's crowned effigy, consisting of head and bust, wearing the Royal robes, and looking to left, with the inscription "George V., Dei Gra.; Rex et Ind. Imp." Reverse impression: The words "One Cent," supported by a maple leaf on each side, and bearing the word "Canada" above and the date of issue below.

Supplementary Estimates Tabled

Supplementary estimates to cover expenditure made during the last fiscal year were tabled in the House of Commons on May 17 by Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance. They total \$19,051,199, and include a vote of \$8,993,867 for soldiers' civil re-establishment (outside service); \$400,000 for reconstruction of the Port Colborne elevator; \$392,000 for restoration of the Parliament Buildings; \$4,550,000 for arts and agriculture; 55,120 for penitentiaries, and \$159,640 for charges of management. There is also a vote of \$600,000 for salaries and contingent expenses of the Pensions Board.

Sales of War Supplies

A total of \$6,047,010 in surplus stores was disposed of by the various government departments through the War Purchasing Commission between December 1, 1918, and March 31, 1920, according to a return tabled in the House of Commons on May 14. The Department of Militia and Defense sold a total of \$5,852,747 in stores, which included blankets, \$1,507,955; textiles, including woollen and cotton piece goods, \$1,386,560, and footwear, \$1,288,442.

Purchasers of these surplus stores were: Trade, \$1,507,955; government departments, \$754,143; public institutions, \$101,407; returned men and dependents, \$62,884. Sales by the Naval Service Branch totalled \$186,900. The chief item in this was provisions, \$182,571. The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment sales totalled \$6,236; Public Works Department, \$625, and Pensions Board, \$500. The grand total of stores sold was \$6,047,010, divided as follows: Trade, \$5,092,751; departments of Government, \$784,169; public institutions, \$106,425; returned men and dependents, \$63,664.

Control of Electric Railways

First reading was given on May 17 to a bill which seeks to bring the control of electric roads under the jurisdiction of provincial governments rather than under the control of the Railway Commissioners. Last year a clause was put in the Railway Act placing the Quebec Central road under federal control, but it was found later that the clause took in all electric lines. This new bill, Hon. J. D. Reid explained, was to place electric lines back under the jurisdiction of provincial governments. Replying to W. F. Maclean (South York), Dr. Reid said no provision had been made to extend the jurisdiction of the Railway Commissioners with regard to telephone companies.

Legislation Affecting Insurance

On May 11th the following bills were assented to and became Acts: An Act to amend the Government Annuities Act, 1908; an Act to incorporate the Scottish-Canadian Assurance Corporation; an Act to incorporate the T. Eaton Life Assurance Co.; an Act to incorporate the T. Eaton General Insurance Co.; an Act respecting the Pacific Marine Insurance Co.; an Act to incorporate the Armour Life Assurance Co.; an Act to incorporate the Canada Security Assurance Co.; an Act respecting the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Co.

An Act to incorporate the United Canada Fire Insurance Co. of Winnipeg, a new company with capitalization of \$3,000,000, also passed the select committee on banking and commerce on May 19. There was some discussion on the name before passage was allowed, as the committee two years ago had passed an act to incorporate the "United Canadian Fire Insurance Co." However, it was pointed out that the charter to the latter company would expire on May 24, and no steps to secure a license had been taken by the promoters after receiving their charter.

The special committee of the House of Commons on Pension and Re-establishment has been considering insurance for veterans who cannot secure policies with the regular companies because of their war service. The committee consulted G. D. Finlayson, superintendent of insurance, on this point, and it is expected that some plan will be suggested.