

Mr. GOLDING: I was hoping perhaps I would be in the chair so that I might have an opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the kindness of all hon. members while I occupied the chair helping out our good friend the Deputy Speaker. I should like also to congratulate the new members who have come into this house following the last election. It is a splendid thing to see the young men who have come here taking such an active part in our work. I have been here for quite a few years, and I must say they are a very high class of young men indeed. I wish to thank every hon. member here for his extreme kindness to me while I was presiding over the committee, and to wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Mr. BRACKEN: I was a little afraid yesterday that I was developing a bad habit, and I am afraid I still have it to-day. I am very glad to add my word of commendation to the two men who have acted as chairmen of this committee during the last two or three months, and as well to all the officials of this house in Mr. Speaker's organization. If it is not out of place I should like to say especially how much we appreciate the services rendered to us by each of the young men I see in uniform over to my right. As a last word I should like to compliment the Minister of Veterans Affairs on the admirable way he has helped the opposition to get the government's estimates through the house.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I should add a word from the members of this group. We have appreciated the fairness with which we have been treated and the consideration that has been given us, so that we have had an opportunity to speak on all matters.

Mr. BOUCHER: As one of the members for the city of Ottawa I think on behalf of the city I can extend to all a cordial welcome back in a short time, and our appreciation of your visit with us for the past few months.

Mr. MACKENZIE: May I say a final word in connection with the remarks of the leader of the opposition. We often mention the members of our staff here. We very seldom have heard mentioned the hardest working members of the staff of the house, that is the members of the *Hansard* staff, who have sat with us and have listened to some indifferent and some good things until the wee midnight hours. I think the whole house will join with me in extending our thanks to them.

Mr. BRACKEN: Under this new item of business I hope I shall be allowed to make [Mr. MacNicol.]

another speech. I am sure the members of the *Hansard* staff know where the indifferent speeches come from—and also where the good ones come from.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I hope so.

Mr. BRACKEN: I wish to thank them for the way in which they have improved the speeches I have made.

Mr. MacNICOL: And there should also be included Mr. Young and Mr. Galbraith.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPLY BILL

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

Mr. ILSLEY moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1946, the sums of \$117,775,292.34 and \$21,931,048 respectively be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported and concurred in. Mr. Ilesley thereupon moved for leave to introduce bill No. 244, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1946.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM—DISTRIBUTION OF TURKEYS

Mr. AYLESWORTH:

1. Does the central experimental farm at Ottawa intend to distribute turkeys at Christmas time to crown officials, civil servants or staff members? If so, upon what terms?
2. Were any so distributed last Christmas? If so, to whom and upon what terms?
3. Does the said farm sell or otherwise dispose of other produce raised thereon? If so, upon what terms?