

Supply—Finance

A query has been put to the actuaries as to whether it would not be possible to forecast at what point it might be anticipated that there would be a balance between the debts extinguished by the mortality of pensioners and the liability being incurred by the increase in the number of beneficiaries or of those having protection under the fund.

The general principle is that we are trying to get to the point where it can be put in such a condition so that each year there will be a charge against the revenues of that year equal to the calculated liability incurred during the year.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** I thank the Prime Minister for his statement. I understand that this report will perhaps be tabled by October?

**Mr. Sinclair:** That is what the minister said he hoped to do.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** I take it that we will be able to discuss this matter some time or other?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** It may be that the government will wish to have the additional periods shown before tabling the 1947 report. I found it difficult to get any clear conception of what was happening merely by comparing the report of 1933 with the report of 1947. I did feel that if I had 1948, 1949 and 1950 that would probably throw some light upon what was happening and what was apt to happen in the future.

Item agreed to.

116. Administration of the Farmers Creditors Arrangement Act, 1943, and the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, 1938, \$19,582.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** I have read the last report concerning the Farmers Creditors Arrangement Act, and the operations have really come down now to almost nothing. Would the parliamentary assistant say a word about the organization? Is it an organization which is carried in another office, or is it an organization on its own?

**Mr. Sinclair:** We closed the Alberta office and we are going to close the Saskatchewan office some time this summer or fall. The local office in Ottawa will be able to handle the few accounts still outstanding.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** I take it the local office does other things as well?

**Mr. Sinclair:** Oh, yes.

Item agreed to.

118. Foreign Exchange Control Act, 1946—administrative costs (other than those provided by the Bank of Canada), \$140,000.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Will the parliamentary assistant give us a word about

this item? I presume that the changes made a year ago are gradually lessening the work. Perhaps we might be given an idea of the numbers engaged. That would be as illustrative as anything else, if the parliamentary assistant has those figures.

**Mr. Sinclair:** The actual detailed work of course was greatly cut by the relaxation of foreign exchange controls announced last year. A great deal of the actual paper work of course was done by the banks. The staff is supplied by the Bank of Canada. I can give the hon. member the estimates by objects of expenditure if he would like that.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Yes.

**Mr. Sinclair:** 1951-52, enforcement expenses, \$7,500—it is on page 166 of the details of the estimates.

Item agreed to.

122. Commodity Prices Stabilization Corporation—adjustment payments in respect of subsidies previously paid, and costs of administration, \$75,000.

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** What does this board do now?

**Mr. Sinclair:** Of course the corporation's job is ended. Last year we had a vote of \$500,000 because there were quite a few cases still in dispute. Which item are you questioning?

**Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Item 122.

**Mr. Sinclair:** Last year we had an item of \$500,000 in expectation of accounts still outstanding, but actually we made no payments at all. The settlements were all in favour of the crown rather than in favour of the people who were applying for payment of subsidies. This year there are some still outstanding, but in view of last year's experience the estimate at the outside is \$75,000.

Item agreed to.

Contingencies and miscellaneous—

129. Cost of telephone service at Ottawa for all departments, \$605,000.

**Mr. Knowles:** Would the parliamentary assistant tell us whether this increase is due mainly to more telephones or to the increased cost of telephone service?

**Mr. Sinclair:** It is due to three things. The first thing is we had a standard agreement on switchboards and general service with the Bell Telephone Company which was renewed last year. The old agreement had been in effect for twelve years. The second thing was the increase in rates granted as a consequence of the board of transport commissioners' review of Bell Telephone Company rates. The third fact is the increase in the number of telephones on circuits.

Item agreed to.