

argued at great length, and indeed never has the position which they then took been found wrong. The Privy Council has held that the balance was permanent and could not be affected by the Dominion or by a province, and that grants beyond those so provided were unconstitutional. Well, in this day and generation there is not much use in contending we have to adhere to that position, for no Administration has ever pretended to adhere to it. The measure of largesse that has gone to this province to-day and to another province yesterday has had no relation whatever to the terms of Confederation, but has been determined merely by the estimate of need or of pressure. But this is the biggest of all; this is a gigantic step. It just means that the Western Provinces are to be relieved of tremendous liability. Perhaps it has to be done, but really I do not like to think the Bill has gone through the other House with very little consideration, and that we have just to endorse it with practically no consideration at all.

While on my feet I cannot help calling attention to two or three items that strike the eye with a bang. I notice among the Governor General's warrants there is an item of \$10,000, additional provision for the High Commissioner's Office in London. It is of course most unreasonable to think that that could have been foreseen. There is another item of \$45,000 to maintain that sacred and immortal Royal Commission on the Textile Industry—and no doubt to pay for the speeches of its counsel. That \$45,000, I hope, will return one-hundredfold—

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: A liquid asset.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: —in its results to the suffering taxpayers of Canada.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not know whether there are any more royal commissions that we are paying for with Governor General's warrants and have to jam through in the course of two or three minutes.—Yes, there is another Governor General's warrant for the construction of a barn at an experimental farm in Fredericton, New Brunswick. As honourable senators from New Brunswick will realize, the need of that barn became known just overnight.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: It was burned down.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I was right. It could not have been foreseen, and could not wait until the estimate was put through in the proper way. Then there is something for the

Grain Commission inquiry. I think that is the seventh commission doing the same sort of thing, parading about from one place to another, hearing the same evidence, sometimes from different lips, sometimes from the same, supported by counsel at about \$200 a day no doubt, and the emergency was such that we have to provide \$103,000 to keep it going. These items for royal commissions, especially when they are repeating the work of other commissions, are surely items that are pretty hard to justify putting through by Governor General's warrants and submitting to the Senate in the last ten seconds before Royal Assent.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Honourable members, I have always thought it was most unfair to give large amounts to certain provinces, and I may say that I often argued the point with a very well-known lawyer, Mr. Aimé Geoffrion. The right honourable gentleman on the other side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) knows that perfectly well. For instance, when we were taking over railways that were being built thousands of miles from New Brunswick, or Prince Edward Island, or Quebec, I said: "Surely that is not fair. How can the Federal Government continue giving away money which, after all, comes out of the pockets of Ontario and Quebec?" What the other provinces put up is not much, for \$80 out of every \$100 of the federal revenue comes from Ontario and Quebec. I defy contradiction of that statement. Mr. Aimé Geoffrion said that the Parliament of Canada had the right to do that and there was no legal remedy that he knew of. If he does not know of any remedy, I do not know who does.

Hon. JAMES MURDOCK: Honourable senators, I think that this is the second time the right honourable leader on the other side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) has made reference to the Royal Commission on the Textile Industry. To-day he goes a little further and refers to the fact that in the Bill before us there is an item of \$45,000 additional for the expenses of that commission. The understanding is that the commission has cost the country approximately \$140,000 or \$150,000, with presumably not all the figures in yet. I do not know. But the right honourable leader opposite expressed the hope that the expense would repay 100 per cent. I want to prophesy here and now that to the underprivileged citizens of Canada it will repay more than 100 per cent. Honourable members have a right to ask me how that will be done. We have the answer in the two great provinces of Canada bringing down uniform minimum wage laws—why? In my humble judgment for no other reason than that this royal com-