

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. member's information is a little scant. This society was organized with the full approval, both as to name and purpose, of Her Majesty the Queen at that time. I would strongly recommend to the member for Bow River that he attend some of its sessions and not only listen to the addresses, but read its literature. In that I am not intending to pay any compliment to myself.

Item agreed to.

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, \$2,500.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is new to me.

Mr. ROBB: It has been in the estimates since 1910-11. The object is to promote interest in the fine arts. The members of the academy give their services gratuitously. Free classes are held at large centres throughout the Dominion. Grants are made to the Toronto and other large exhibitions. The president is G. Horne Russell; vice president, Henry Sproatt; secretary, E. Dyonnett; treasurer, C. W. Simpson.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the minister know any of them?

Mr. ROBB: No, I have not that pleasure. From 1910-11 to 1912-13 they received \$2,000 a year, but in 1913-14 the government of the day increased their grant to \$5,000 and this continued until 1916-17. In 1917-18 it was reduced to \$2,500 and they were paid that amount until 1920-21. In 1921-22 they were given \$7,500 and in 1924-25 the grant was reduced to \$2,500.

Item agreed to.

Grant to the Inter-parliamentary Union for Peace, \$400.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What are the activities of this organization with respect to peace?

Mr. ROBB: This amount has been voted annually since 1914-15. The secretary is Mr. Charles Lange, with headquarters at Geneva. They have been paid \$200 each year.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What is the work they are doing?

Mr. ROBB: They have annual meetings, and so on.

Mr. HOEY: Are they associated with the League of Nations?

Mr. ROBB: I could not say.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why is the amount doubled this year?

[Mr. E. J. Garland.]

Mr. ROBB: My recollection is that this year they meet in Washington and I think it is expected that they will come to Canada.

Mr. STEVENS: The \$200 is to entertain them here, is it?

Mr. ROBB: No, I think there is another grant for that.

Mr. GOOD: It seems rather ridiculous to be spending \$400 on organization for peace when we are spending about \$12,000,000 on preparations for war, or on so-called defence. If there was anything worth while in this organization I would be prepared to support a much larger grant. We ought to know something more about it.

Item agreed to.

Civil Government—Insurance—salaries, \$80,350; contingencies, \$61,000.

Mr. MANION: Why the increase?

Mr. ROBB: The increase is due to one promotion, senior actuary to chief actuary, A. D. Watson, \$675; one promotion, senior actuarial examiner to chief examiner, W. H. Gilliland, \$675; one promotion, statistical clerk to senior statistical clerk, H. A. Urquhart, \$360; statutory increases, \$2,130; one clerk additional, \$960. That accounts for the increase.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is the department where the minister strolls around and goes into nearly every business in the country. I see in the details that the salary of the Superintendent of Insurance is now raised to \$10,000 a year.

Mr. ROBB: It has been at that figure for some time. The cost of the administration of this office is paid by the insurance companies.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I know, but that means that in the end it is paid by the taxpayers of Canada. The statute under which this department was created provided for a salary of \$5,000 for the Superintendent of Insurance, and I believe it still provides for that. The increase must have been made last year. How does the minister justify raising it to \$10,000?

Mr. ROBB: My right hon. friend should have raised that question some time ago. I think the increase was made four or five years ago.

Mr. MANION: No it was made last year, I think, or the year before, because I remember receiving circulars opposing it. The increase may not have been from \$5,000 to