

to show that "minister" means the Minister of Labour. In section 2 the word "minister" is used, and since there is no definition in a previous section giving the meaning of "minister," it is obvious that there is nothing to indicate that the word "minister" has reference to the Minister of Labour.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, I shall be glad to accept that.

Progress reported.

SUPPLY

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre) in the chair.

Legislation—House of Commons—

Clerical assistance, etc.—further amount required, \$33,343.62.

Contingencies—further amount required, \$5,507.17.

Sergeant-at-Arms—further amount required, \$9,250.

To provide for the transfer of G. Champagne, doorkeeper of the Prime Minister's office, Department of External Affairs, to the staff of the sergeant-at-arms, House of Commons, as a confidential messenger, to the leader of the opposition, from the 23rd October, 1935, at \$1,440 with annual increases of \$60 on October 1st of each year to a maximum salary of \$1,620, \$603.10.

Mr. BENNETT: May we have some information as to the causes of increases for clerical assistance and the sergeant-at-arms?

Mr. DUNNING: The main estimates last year provided \$117,000 odd for clerical and stenographic assistance; the additional amount stated to be required for the remainder of the year is \$33,000. Contingencies in the main estimates were \$44,000, and in the supplementaries \$11,000. In these supplementaries \$5,507 is asked for, the main item in which is to provide for the purchase of twenty-seven typewriters to replace obsolete and worn out machines. The other items are quite incidental. For the department of the sergeant-at-arms the main estimates of last year provided \$207,000. The sum here required is \$9,250, made up of additional amounts required for salaries, messenger and protective service, \$8,750, and for charwomen, \$500. That is the detail of the vote as handed to me from the clerk of the house.

Mr. BENNETT: To-day a matter was brought to my attention with regard to one of the messengers who was appointed in 1931. He is a returned man. His wife died to-day. He has five children. In the early part of this year he was dismissed, for no reason so

far as he knows. It is true that he is very poor; he had difficulty in meeting all his obligations, because of the illness in his family. I suppose that one cannot do more than merely direct attention to these facts, that he is a returned man with five children, that his wife died this morning, and that he had been employed here since 1931. I came across him to-day weeping, as any man might do who had experienced difficulties such as he has had to meet. I was hopeful that something might have been done, because it is a case to which I alluded some days ago. Personally I do not know the man, beyond seeing him; I never knew who he was, aside from that.

I suppose this includes the salaries of the messengers in connection with the office of the sergeant-at-arms.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: After hearing what my right hon. friend has just said with reference to the particular person mentioned, I am sure that his honour the Speaker will be glad to take the matter under review, and if it is possible to meet so necessitous a case, I feel that the house will support him in so doing.

Mr. BENNETT: I think that is fair.

Item agreed to.

Railways and Canals—Chargeable to Capital—Welland Ship Canal—to provide for a grant, upon the authority of the governor in council, to P. Lyall and Sons Construction Company, Limited, in liquidation, in full settlement of all claims against His Majesty relating to the payment of wages to persons employed in the execution of the work covered by contract No. 24660, dated June 27, 1922, entered into between P. Lyall and Sons Construction Company, Limited, and His Majesty for the completion of the construction of sections Nos. 3 and 4 of the Welland ship canal, including locks Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 and guard gate, \$173,521.24.

Mr. BENNETT: Will the minister give an explanation of this?

Mr. HOWE: This is settlement of a claim that has been in dispute and outstanding for many years. It arose from a contract entered into by the government with the Lyall Construction Company in the spring of 1922. In 1923 wages were rising, and the minister of labour of that day ordered a general increase in wages applying to the Lyall contract, and also changed to some extent the classifications of labour. The work was finished, I believe, in 1925, and a claim was entered with the government in the amount of about \$400,000. The government, I think, admitted that something should be done, and an effort was made to arrive at a settlement. In 1925