

on the principle that the monies to be paid out by way of bounties are for some definite purpose. If he believes the reasons which moved the previous government to give these bounties by way of encouraging oil production still hold good, he should be prepared to defend those reasons. I am entirely opposed to bounties and I think it is time to repeal the law under which they were granted. I question very much whether the bounty of a cent and a half a gallon encourages the production of oil; it merely adds that much more to the profits of those who do not require any assistance. Unless the minister is convinced that the granting of bounties does still give encouragement to oil production, I think he ought seriously to consider the introduction of legislation to repeal the Act under which these bounties were first granted.

Mr. BELAND: As the Supplementary Estimates are sometimes laid on the table of the House as late as the end of June, would it not be well to include in them the amount paid during the fiscal year ended the previous March, so that the country will know exactly the amount likely to be paid during the current year? I would ask the right hon. gentleman to bring this suggestion to the attention of his colleagues.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I will.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer): I am sure my right hon. friend (Sir George Foster) must be impressed with the strength of sentiment opposed to the principle of bounties. The words which have just gone from my hon. friend from North Waterloo (Mr. Euler) are very impressive. I have no doubt myself that this item, small as it is, is a waste of public money. I settled that question for myself many years ago, and when I first came to this House I expressed myself more than once along those lines. I think my hon. friend from Maisonneuve (Mr. Lemieux) has pointed out to the minister a more excellent way of helping the exploration of the wealth beneath the surface of the earth—by making it easier to get the implements by which that wealth may be won. I have not had time to look into what the Argentine has done of recent years, but before the war she had no duty whatever on mining implements, and the Argentine resembles Canada in these respects, that it is thinly populated and is a new country. My right hon. friend balks at the idea of paying out this bounty on large amounts of oil; but he contends for this modest sum of \$3,000. That attitude brings him to what is the fundamental and,

[Mr. Euler.]

in my opinion, the insurmountable objection to bounties. You can only pay a bounty to two kinds of business: either to a business which is a paying business, when obviously it does not need any assistance and it is a gross injustice to the taxpayers to assist it; or to a non-paying business, which is a foolish waste of public money. In the absence of bounties people would put their capital and their energies into a line of business which on the whole was likely to be remunerative; otherwise, they would withdraw from it. I hope my right hon. friend has been impressed, as I have been, with the strength of sentiment that has been expressed by my hon. friends from Dorchester, Pontiac, Maisonneuve and other hon. gentlemen. I want to add my modest word to theirs, and I hope if he does bring in the Estimates another year he will be so much impressed by the arguments advanced to-night that he will drop even this small sum. I want to reiterate in a sentence that, in my humble judgment, it is a waste of public money, and certainly no responsible citizen of Canada at the present time will argue for one moment that we have any money to waste.

Mr. CAHILL: My hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. Redman) states that this bounty is necessary for wells that are not producing enough oil to make them pay for the labour expended on them, but he must know that such enterprises are better closed down at once. He might just as well argue that his friend who is sitting beside him, the member for Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion), would be justified in asking for a bounty on fish in portions of Lake Superior which have been fished out. I have no doubt that the right hon. gentleman would grant such a bounty, and I also have no doubt that lots of fishermen would be ready to take that bounty to catch fish.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer): They would catch the bounty.

Mr. CAHILL: Yes, that is what most of them are looking for. The principle of bounties is wrong. When an enterprise will not pay for the labour, and we have too many remunerative occupations for our people to waste their time and money on those that are unprofitable. The minister has stated that if it was the wish of Parliament to abolish this bounty, it would be abolished. I am quite satisfied that if I moved to strike the item out the minister would call to his support all his followers, and the item would carry. Legislation is conducted by the Government, and the Gov-