

mons at the present session of parliament, be granted to His Majesty, on account for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1927.

Mr. BENNETT: That is merely the unvoted portion of the general estimates?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Mr. GARDINER: Before this resolution is carried, would the Minister of Finance explain whether there will be any other opportunity of discussing these estimates, or will the committee, by passing these estimates now in block, be precluded from discussing various items in the estimates in the future?

Mr. ROBB: I think it will be quite reasonable for the chairman to allow very wide latitude in the discussion of these estimates when the main estimates for the fiscal year 1927-1928 are before the House. I might add that there are also supplementary estimates, which I am not going to ask the House to rush through at this time. I simply want to get this resolution through to provide for the public service to-morrow. As I explained before, most of these estimates have already been voted, but they did not receive the royal assent. I think we will allow full latitude in discussing the estimates when the supplementaries and the main estimates come up later.

Mr. GARDINER: I would call to the minister's attention that some very important items in the main estimates did not receive the consideration of this House at the last session. I do not think many members expected the House to go into committee to-night, and I would therefore suggest to the minister that he move that the committee rise and report progress, and let us go into the estimates to-morrow, in order to give those members who are particularly interested in certain items an opportunity to secure the information they desire from the government. I think that is a fair request, and I trust the minister will be able to acquiesce in it.

Mr. ROBB: I have no wish to rush the matter. All I want to make plain to the House is that if the public service is not paid to-morrow, the fault will not be mine. May I suggest to my hon. friend that we advance this resolution through its various stages up to the bill, and then allow a very wide discussion on the bill when it comes up. That will enable us to get along and have the Deputy Governor General come to the Senate and give royal assent to the bill; for of course we cannot pay out this money until the bill has received the royal assent.

Mr. BENNETT: We can reserve our rights under the bill.

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend can reserve all his rights under the bill, if that is agreeable.

Mr. GARDINER: I understand this vote is to pay the salaries. That is practically all it involves. I would remind the Minister of Finance that it would hardly be opportune when the bill is before the House to discuss the important items that some of the members, I believe, desire to discuss, and I think it is asking a little too much of the House that, after concluding the debate on the speech from the throne to-night we should be asked to vote this large sum of money. We desire to help on the business of the session to the best of our ability, but at the same time I suggest the minister is not quite reasonable in this regard.

Mr. ROBB: I have no desire to be unreasonable and if my hon. friend wishes it to stand over I will not press it, but I repeat that most of these items have already been voted by the House and did not receive the royal assent. It is impossible, as my hon. friend understands, to pick out the salaries, and I want to make it clear to the public service that I am doing my best to provide for them. Three months' estimates have already been voted by the House and the money has been paid. If my hon. friend can give me the assurance that this will go through early to-morrow, so that we can get royal assent within a reasonable time during the day to issue the cheques for the payments I will not press it to-night. But I would not like it to appear that I had in any way kept the service from being paid to-morrow. I know that to-day messages have come to me from Quebec and Halifax asking when the cheques were to be issued.

Mr. BENNETT: I think my hon. friend from Acadia misunderstands the situation. If the House adopts the resolution to-night, and it is distinctly understood that on the second reading of the bill he may discuss any items of the estimates as though the House were in committee, then we will have advanced the supply at least a day, and will have enabled the House to rise a day sooner than we otherwise would.

Mr. ROBB: That is right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Another factor that will have a bearing on the matter is that three months' supply of this past year was voted by the House and the money is spent. Another four or five months' supply