Interim Supply

The general proportion of one-sixth of all services plus additional proportions for certain special items is intended to provide for all the necessary requirements of the public service to the end of May. In no instance is the total amount of any item being released. The form of the bill is the same as the bill passed at this time last year. The passing of the bill will not prejudice the rights and privileges of members to criticize and discuss any item in the estimates which will come up for consideration from time to time throughout the balance of the session, and the usual undertaking is hereby given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

Mr. Knowles: The minister said that in no case was the total amount of an item being asked for in this interim supply bill. What is the largest amount in any case— five-twelfths?

Mr. Abbott: Five-twelfths, yes.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

Mr. Abbott moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1955, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, namely:
1. The sum of $526,007,622, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1955;
2. The sum of $216,900, being one-quarter of the amount of item 431 of the said estimates;
3. The sum of $417,594.33, being one-sixth of the amount of items 197, 199, 202, 203 of the said estimates; and
4. The sum of $4,303,708.08, being one-twelfth of the amount of items 19, 37, 61, 79, 433, 434 of the said estimates; as set forth in the resolution concurred in this day in the committee of supply.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. Abbott thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 391, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1955.

[Mr. Abbott.]

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On clause 1—*Short title*.

Mr. Knowles: With respect to clause 1, may I ask the minister if there is any significance to the fact that this act is to be cited as Appropriation Act No. 0?

Mr. Abbott: When the bill is given reading now it will be No. 1. This is a preliminary printing of course. We are doing this by leave, but it will be Appropriation Act No. 1.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

On clause 3—*$216,900 granted for 1954-55*.

Mr. Fulton: On this clause, I have a question which is not extremely important, but I should like to know how this thing works. As I understand it, under clause 2 we have voted one-sixth of every item in the main estimates. Then, under clause 3 we are asked to vote a specific sum not to exceed $216,900, being one-quarter of the amount of the item set forth in schedule A to the act. I take it from looking at schedule A that item in the estimates is No. 431.

Mr. Abbott: That is correct.

Mr. Fulton: Is it possible that by using the wording in clause 3 we have voted already one-sixth of item 431 and we are now voting an additional one-quarter?

Mr. Abbott: An additional one-quarter, and as I said the effect of this clause is to vote five-twelfths of the item.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule A agreed to.

Schedule B agreed to.

Schedule C agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall this bill be read a third time now?

Mr. Knowles: By leave.

Mr. Abbott moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.