

*City of Ottawa Agreement*

Mr. POOLE: Yes.

Mr. DUNNING: School lands were always held in trust by the dominion for the province. To-day they are administered by the province. It was never crown land in the sense of being available for homesteading.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Crerar thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 33, to amend the Soldier Settlement Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

## CITY OF OTTAWA AGREEMENT

AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF \$100,000 FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1, 1938

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Public Works) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to authorize the Minister of Public Works on behalf of His Majesty to enter into an agreement to pay to the corporation of the city of Ottawa the sum of \$100,000 for the year ending July 1, 1938.

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

Mr. CARDIN: This resolution provides purely and simply for the introduction of a bill authorizing the Minister of Public Works to extend for another year the agreement between the city of Ottawa and the Department of Public Works. The agreement provides for a payment of \$100,000 to the city of Ottawa as compensation for fire protection of buildings belonging to the government and for water used in sprinkling in the parks and on certain streets under the control of the federal district commission. This agreement was concluded as far back as 1920. It was then for a period of five years. In 1925 the amount of \$75,000 which had been provided in the agreement of 1920 was increased to the present sum of \$100,000. Since that time the agreement has been renewed by legislation passed at each session of the house.

Mr. CHURCH: I do not wish to delay the passage of this vote, but there are two or three features of it which I think parliament should understand. The agreement is between two parties: the king, represented by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cardin), who has just spoken, and the mayor and corporation of the city of Ottawa; the vote is \$100,000. The agreement began away back in 1920, on March 13. It is a subvention to the city of Ottawa, and it started in this way. There was a meeting at Niagara Falls

[Mr. Dunning.]

of the Union of Canadian Municipalities the year I was president. I read a paper dealing with subventions in other countries by governments—for the state and federal capitals of Australia and all over the world. At that time the late Mr. Fisher, who was born in Toronto, was mayor of Ottawa. On March 13, 1920, as mayor of Ottawa, on behalf of the corporation, he made an agreement with the government. It was said at that time that the agreement was to spend \$75,000 for what was known as sprinkling the streets. It was a lot of money to grant for that purpose; I do not know whether there was a general election in sight at the time or not. The "sprinkling" amounted to very much less in fact.

But the item grew. We are in a building under the control of the Speaker, who keeps it very clean, but if you step outside the door you are under a federal district commission; yet it is all in the city of Ottawa. The vote was expressed to be for a sprinkling system. Sprinkling what? For cleaning certain streets of Ottawa. When the minister was asked in 1920 how much was to be voted, he said, \$75,000. That is a lot of money for sprinkling. The next year the vote came up they amended the information; and they said, "Oh no, it is just along the lines of the union of municipalities report, and provided a subvention in exchange for services rendered by the municipality to the capital of the country." What were those services? Fire, police protection and other services. It may be remembered that Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposed to make this city the Washington of the north. Now they are going to make Washington the Ottawa of the south.

This vote is a most improvident arrangement, because, under constitutional practice, every vote must have a principle. The principle in this case is all wrong. I am not opposed to Ottawa, I should be glad to see this city get everything that is coming to it; but when one looks into this agreement, and adds to the amount of this vote what the federal district commission are now spending on the park system of Ottawa, it runs into a very large sum of money for capital and maintenance. Nearly half a million dollars is voted direct by this parliament to the city of Ottawa for purely municipal institutions—parks and playgrounds and the rest—and on capital account and purchase of properties, tearing down buildings under this agreement and also through the federal district commission—\$257,000 through the commission.

What is this agreement? Of what does it consist? How is the amount of the vote