

to give this company a good slice anyway out of the public treasury for their own benefit. However, I shall be anxious to see what agreement is entered into with the company as to the rights and privileges of outsiders going upon the island.

Mr. GEARY: What did the company expend on the wharf?

Mr. ELLIOTT: The company built the whole wharf for \$2,500,000.

Amendment (Mr. Cardin) agreed to.

Item as amended agreed to.

Reconstruction of the north shore St. Lawrence telegraph system from Murray Bay to Bersimis, \$25,000.

Mr. LAVIGUEUR: I would remind the Minister of Public Works that we have been asking for a telephone service on the island of Orleans for a long time, and I hope that next session, or before, provision will be made for providing the island with a telephone service. There are six parishes on the island, and these people seem to be neglected by the government.

Item agreed to.

Combines Investigation Act, \$30,000.

Mr. GEARY: Does this represent the work done last year in connection with the investigation held in connection with the trading in proprietary drugs? Is this a permanent staff?

Mr. ELLIOTT: This is the general staff. I think the work in connection with that inquiry was extra.

Item agreed to.

Administration, Employment Offices' Coordination Act, \$17,000.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Can the minister tell us how many returned soldiers have been placed by the employment bureaus? There seems to be an impression that the employment agencies have not been giving the returned soldier a square deal. I am not making that charge, but I would like to know how many returned soldiers have been placed.

Mr. GEARY: I think the Minister of Labour is doing all right in Toronto in that respect.

Mr. ELLIOTT: The annual agreements between the Department of Labour and the provinces contain a special clause under which the provinces undertake to make special efforts to provide facilities for finding work for partially disabled ex-service men. The department has engaged an additional staff to undertake this work in a specialized manner

[Mr. Gardiner.]

in certain of the larger centres throughout the country. "Special handicap" sections were created, and they have done quite an extensive work in placing handicapped ex-service men, and they are meeting with a great deal of success through the cooperation of employers in employing these handicapped men. During 1926-27, 7,775 handicapped ex-service men were satisfactorily placed in employment.

Item agreed to.

Technical Education Act, \$4,000.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Can the minister say anything about the extension of the Technical Education Act to the prairie provinces?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think I have already given the house information on that point.

Mr. GARDINER: When does the act expire?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Next year, 1929.

Item agreed to.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

Salaries, \$242,800; expenses of committees, clerical assistance, etc., \$101,950; contingencies, \$48,725; publishing debates, \$60,000; estimates of sergeant-at-arms, \$187,711.10.—Total, \$641,186.10.

Mr. ROBB: I beg to move that the item of \$48,725 for contingencies be reduced by \$1,950, being the amount estimated to provide for purchase of 650 copies of the Canadian Parliamentary Guide.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. KENNEDY: Do I understand that this is the vote to provide salaries for the staff of the House of Commons? If so, I would like to ask a question in connection with the members' stenographers staff. A petition was signed by about 165 or 175 members, and representations were made to the Speaker of the house, requesting an increase in the salaries of that staff. In view of those representations I would like to know if any increase has been decided upon, and if so, what?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received representations from the hon. gentleman and from two or three others who presented a petition on behalf of the staff. Every year I am met with the same request on the part of temporary employees in the service of the House of Commons. After receiving a delegation composed of the hon. gentleman and five or six other members of the house, I promised to consult the secretary of the Civil Service Commission. I may say it would