

Mr. ROBB: There is no new expenditure involved; we are merely asking for parliamentary sanction for an overdraft.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That is for an over-expenditure.

Item agreed to.

Resolutions reported.

WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPLY BILL

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Minister of Finance), moved that the House go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the House went into committee, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Mr. ROBB moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1926, the sum of \$2,727,376.35 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. ROBB moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1927, the sum of \$7,057,741.85 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported and concurred in. Mr. Robb thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 46, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the fiscal years ending respectively March 31, 1926, and March 31, 1927.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first and second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

RURAL POSTMASTERS—LOSS OF REVENUE

Mr. NEILL:

1. Has the government obtained any data showing the loss of revenue at rural post offices due to the reduction of postage on letters from three cents to two cents, and if so, will such data be laid on the table of the House?

2. Will the government give favourable consideration to an increase of the percentage allowance to rural postmasters to replace the loss of revenue to them caused by the reduction in postal rates, and will consideration be given to the fact that the commission to rural postmasters has not been increased to meet the higher cost of living since 1914?

Hon. Mr. VENIOT:

1. Yes, but incomplete until close of complete year from 1st July, 1926.

2. The matter is receiving consideration from both points of view.

SPRAY LAKES WATER POWER

Hon. Mr. STEVENS:

1. What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to deal with the Spray lakes power site in the Banff national park since the subject was last discussed in parliament?

2. Before any such rights are granted within any national park, will the minister submit the whole subject to parliament for discussion and consideration?

3. Has an editorial published in the Winnipeg Free Press of November 24, 1926, and entitled "A Projected Raid on the national Parks" been brought to the attention of the government? If not, will the responsible minister of the government condescend to give consideration to the sentiments contained in the said editorial before he alienates any rights or powers within any national park?

4. Will the government introduce at this session legislation defining and limiting the power of government by order in council to alienate any rights or extend any privileges within national parks?

Hon. Mr. STEWART: The government has been giving serious consideration to the many and varied representations made concerning the application to develop water power storage at Spray lakes in Rocky Mountains Park, and will introduce at the present session an amendment to the Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks Act, which will enable discussion of the Spray lakes application in the House of Commons. In the meantime no decision will be made on the application.

WEST INDIES TRADE AGREEMENT—STEAMSHIP SERVICES

Mr. CAHAN:

1. What has been done towards the fulfilment of the terms of the West India agreement with respect to the West India steamship services?

2. What is the present position of the eastern and western services respectively?

3. Is the regular eastern service with Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara and the smaller islands of the eastern group now being maintained, and to what extent?

4. What difficulties, if any, prevent an immediate acceptance of tenders for carrying out the proposed improved steamship service with the eastern group?

5. Is it the intention of the government forthwith to invite new tenders for carrying out the steamship service with the western group on terms which will comply with the stipulations of the West India agreement, or otherwise?

6. Is it the intention of the government to procure modifications of the stipulations of the West India agreement regarding passenger