

ing the Bank Act. This committee requires the attendance of a large number of members and will be sitting for some time yet.

Mr. RINFRET: It will probably sit until about the end of the session.

Mr. MANION: Possibly. A better opportunity for bringing this matter up would be earlier in the day when there is a much better attendance of members. I suggest that in all fairness to hon. gentlemen the minister would be well advised to hold this question over and in the meantime go on with some other item.

Mr. HUMPHREY: There has already been one report submitted by the commission appointed to investigate certain charges against the pension commissioners, and as that report has not yet been printed and circulated I would also respectfully urge the minister to hold this estimate over until those of us who desire to do so have had the opportunity of digesting it. Personally I would like to go into the report of the commission thoroughly with a view of bringing out certain suggestions regarding the vote that is before us tonight. I would respectfully urge the minister to defer this item as I am well aware there are many hon. members, some of whom are not now present, who wish to go into the question very fully.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should also like to join in the request which has been addressed to the minister. I have had resolutions forwarded to me by the Great War Veterans' Association in my own constituency relative to this matter and I cannot intelligently present their views until I have the report of the commission before me.

Mr. BELAND: I have not the remotest desire to curtail the discussion on the question of pensions. On the contrary I invite the fullest discussion, the fullest expression of opinion; I think it would be beneficial to the department generally. On the other hand if those hon. members who are now present take this opportunity of expressing their views it would occupy us until pretty late this evening. The only reason, I

10 p.m. think, that can be invoked for not proceeding with the estimate at the present time is the fact that hon. members have not been able to peruse the report that has been laid on the Table, owing to its not having been printed and distributed yet. That will be done, I presume, within probably a week. I have no objection at all to holding this item over till later in the session. I am an old member of the House and hon. members may take my word for it

that the nearer we get to the end of the session the less time is devoted to the discussion of questions which are of general interest to the members.

Mr. MANION: The statement the minister has made gives exactly the reason that I desire to adjourn the discussion on this item because his proposition was that we should carry this item and then have the discussion on the amendment to the Pension Act, which will probably not come till later in the session. My suggestion would be—and I have no desire to hold up the item—that at the closing of the House on some particular day, the minister tell us that he will go on with this item the next time we are in Committee of Supply. The members who are attending the Banking and Commerce committee will be aware of the fact that the question of pensions is to come up on the following day, and if they do not choose to come in and discuss anything they wish to discuss, it is their responsibility.

Mr. BELAND: May I ask whether to-morrow would suit the hon. member?

Mr. MANION: It would suit me quite well.

Mr. SHAW: I want to join most heartily with those who are anxious to get the report of this special commission before discussing the pension matters. I have not seen an exact copy of the report, but I have seen little sections here and there. I think it is highly important that we should have that report in our hands and have an opportunity of perusing it before this particular item can be discussed intelligently, and I would, therefore, suggest that the matter be left over until we have an opportunity of perusing that report.

Mr. BELAND: This is a reasonable request after all, and I hope the report will be distributed within ten days or possibly a week. As soon as members have had time to peruse it, we will submit the item for the consideration of this House. I would move that the consideration of this item be postponed.

Motion agreed to.

Item stands.

Marine Hospitals, including grants to institutions assisting sailors—further amount required, \$20,000.

Mr. STEVENS: Will the minister give us an explanation of the item?

Mr. BELAND: This supplementary amount is required for the last fiscal year. The amount voted last year was \$95,000. Hon. members will probably remember that, when we passed the main estimates of the Health department this session, we provided for an