

functions of these men were to be diplomatic rather than those associated with trade. If that is so, it would seem as if in selecting another country we should select from among the larger countries rather than those of minor importance. I do not think that point was answered by the Prime Minister.

Then there is a second consideration. If I am rightly informed, if war should be declared by a country in which we were represented only by the British minister and that minister were withdrawn, thereby we would be automatically at war. I think this is just one aspect of the matter we were discussing two days ago. If that is correct—and I wish the Prime Minister would tell us, because he is an expert in these matters—ought we not on that account to have ministers at the larger centres? Or are we simply going to throw up the whole thing and say we are automatically at war when Britain is at war? These are rather important considerations, it seems to me, and I should like to have a little more light on the matter than I have at the moment.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is true that we have efficient trade commissioners dealing with questions of trade in a number of countries. However, with the restrictions that are placed on trade to-day, arising from embargoes, quotas, questions of exchange control and the like, many situations are created that can best or only be dealt with efficiently by a minister, with the minister of the department of government in the country concerned. The whole business of international trade nowadays requires more in the way of direct communication between government representatives as distinct from representatives of government departments. A minister has full authority to take up questions of the kind with the ministers of the government of the country to which he is accredited. Without the authority which his rank gives, access to governments abroad is not easily obtained by officials. That is one of the reasons why the question of Canada having ministers in other countries is becoming increasingly important.

With respect to the other point mentioned by my hon. friend, as to whether or not Canada is at war when Britain is at war, I do not see that the situation would be altered in the least by the fact that in the one case you had an ambassador from the United Kingdom who might be withdrawn and in the other case a minister from your own country who might be withdrawn. The broad question of whether Canada is at war when Britain is at war would still remain, regardless altogether of any representation either country might have or cease to have.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. CAHAN: Is it anticipated that Belgium and Holland will each send a minister to Canada and establish a legation here?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As my hon. friend knows, Belgium has already opened a legation in this city. Whether or not Holland will follow the example of Belgium, I cannot say. It is possible that she may, but I do not know.

Item agreed to.

To provide for expenses arising out of the Trail Smelter arbitration, \$7,600.

Mr. BENNETT: I thought we were indemnified in this matter. Now that the question has been disposed of, should we vote any money for this purpose? I know we were indemnified against any expense in connection with this arbitration. Why are we voting money for it now? The award has been made.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is a system of control that is to be continued for another two years, and this amount is to cover whatever may be necessary in that connection.

Mr. BENNETT: The company pays for it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Ultimately the company will pay for it; that is correct.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

Direct payments to veterans and dependents—War veterans' allowances—further amount required, \$1,400,000.

Mr. GREEN: Is this vote intended to meet the requirement of the War Veterans' Allowance Act passed this year?

Hon. C. G. POWER (Minister of Pensions and National Health): Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Are applications being received already?

Mr. POWER: Yes, a very large number of applications has been received. It was estimated that there would be something like five thousand applications, and I think perhaps half of them are in. Some allowances have been actually granted. The act was assented to on April 6, and by the end of April some eighty allowances had been issued. I think we are now up pretty close to one hundred and fifty.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry? Carried.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I want to protest, Mr. Chairman; I have not even found the items in this book, as it is now arranged. Yet