

the more necessary and all the more important when one views the position of this war and its consequences, I would like to impress upon the House and the country the suggestion made by Mr. Rowell, and to say to the Prime Minister that if it is feasible under existing conditions, or conditions which may be imminent within a very short time, to negotiate with that ancient colony, he should not be niggardly in dealing with it; and I am quite sure that those of us on this side of the House would regard my right hon. friend as doing that which was eminently proper and right if he dealt generously with the people of the colony when an opportunity to bring it into Confederation arose. I regard the duty of Canada in that respect as one not merely of importance to Canada as a whole, but of the utmost importance to the Empire, having regard to its permanence and perpetuity in the days yet to come.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I wish to make a correction of a statement I made a few moments ago. My hon. friend the Minister of Labour tells me that representations did come to him with respect to one of the firms or companies in the Maritime provinces. I also understand that arrangements are likely to be made for such a clause as my hon. friend alludes to being included in any contract if necessary.

Motion agreed to.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN moved:

That the said Address be engrossed and presented to His Royal Highness the Governor General by such members of this House as are of the Honourable the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to.

ESTIMATES FOR 1915-16.

A message from His Royal Highness the Governor General transmitting estimates for the year ending March 31, 1916, was presented by Hon. W. T. White, read by Mr. Speaker to the House, and, on motion of Mr. White, referred to the Committee of Supply.

THE BUDGET.

Hon. W. T. WHITE (Finance Minister): I beg to announce that it is my intention to bring down the Budget on Thursday. If my right hon. friend desires the adjournment of the debate on that day, we shall be very glad to meet his wishes.

Mr. WILLIAM PUGSLEY: Matters are evidently going to move pretty rapidly in [Mr. Macdonald.]

the way of getting into the Estimates, and if my right hon. friend has no objection I should like to have laid on the table of the House before the Estimates are considered the names of the agents or subagents or assistants who have been appointed on the recommendation of this Government or of any minister to make purchases for the British Government of ammunition and other war supplies both in the United States and Canada. If I were to move for this information in the ordinary way, I should probably not get it until too late to be made use of. I have information that agents appeared in the city of New York representing the British and Canadian Governments—the same gentlemen in each case—and made purchases for the British Government of war supplies in very large quantities, and I think it is highly desirable that the Government should submit the names of the agents. I may also say in this connection that a communication has appeared, emanating ostensibly from the Government, claiming that certain persons falsely represented themselves as agents. The whole matter is one of very considerable interest, and I should be very glad if my hon. friend would consider giving the House the names of these agents without my having to make a motion in the ordinary way.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I have no recollection of our having appointed agents to purchase for the British Government. So far as I recollect, they appointed their own agents; but I will make inquiries on the subject, and if there are any names to be mentioned I will submit them to the House.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I shall be very glad if my right hon. friend will do so, and I shall be pleased to give him the information I have on the subject. Certain gentlemen undoubtedly did represent themselves to be agents of the British Government, and the same gentlemen were also agents of the Canadian Government in other purchases, and induced manufacturers to deal with them as representing both the Canadian and the British Governments. I understand that vast quantities of ammunition were purchased through these gentlemen.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Does the Minister of Finance propose to give shortly a statement of any sums advanced by the