

end of the month and when the end of May came I did not have enough money to pay them for the whole of their May salaries, because I only had a one and a half months vote given to me. When the end of June comes, if this vote does not go through, I will not be able to pay them anything and they will then be six weeks in arrears. In addition to salaries there are other expenditures necessary for the service. It happened that in April and the early part of May some heavy expenditures came in and they were met out of the money which had been voted.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The minister left the impression that at the beginning of May he had used money for other purposes that was intended for salaries.

Mr. FISHER. I did not intend that.

Mr. HENDERSON. If these estimates are voted to-night when is it intended to bring down a Supply Bill in order to pay these men?

Mr. FISHER. I cannot tell.

Mr. HENDERSON. We go on voting money for salaries and other purposes and the cry is going out through the country that we are keeping these men out of their money for salaries and other purposes and steps to make the money available.

Mr. FIELDING. We are anxious to get a little more.

Mr. HENDERSON. How much more?

Mr. FIELDING. Oh, as much as we can get.

Mr. FISHER. I do not think it would be wise to bring down a Supply Bill, pay certain services and neglect others. As far as the services are concerned, which require a regular routine out-go of money, they are all on the same footing.

Mr. HENDERSON. I hope this will be a lesson to the minister not to delay until the fifth or sixth month in the session before bringing his estimates down. These should have been before the House in January or February and disposed of.

Mr. FISHER. I did manage to pass three or four small items some months ago and I was stopped then by the hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. How were you stopped?

Mr. FISHER. By their saying that they could not pass any more that night.

Mr. FIELDING. Whatever else happens the farmers' service really ought not to suffer.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. The Minister of Agriculture has not been doing justice to the agricultural interests by not bringing

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these estimates down before this because these are estimates which require to be debated very fully. There are questions that require very serious consideration and yet he tries to force his estimates through the House in a few moments. I cannot help noticing that at the end of each of these items there are these words:

Payments made from this sum not to be subject to the Civil Service Act.

As far as the civil servants are concerned they are apparently not to get anything out of these items which the minister is asking for. They are for men in the outside service. What proportion of this amount will go towards salaries?

Mr. FISHER. I could not say how much will go towards salaries off-hand, but I would explain these words. They were put in four or five years ago at the request of the late Auditor General. As a good many of these employees are in the city of Ottawa and paid here the late Auditor General said that they ought to have these words in to make sure they would be properly paid. The thing had been going on for many years without him saying anything about it, but four or five years ago he requested that in future these words should be put in.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will the minister state again the items that include salaries?

Mr. FISHER. No. 46, the dairying vote; 47, the seed commissioners vote; 49 for the development of the live stock industry and 53 for the administration and enforcement of the Meat and Canned Foods Act.

Mr. TAYLOR. That item of \$115,000 takes in practically the whole dairy industry. There will be a very lengthy discussion on the cheese curing rooms. I understood that the cheese curing room at Brockville had been shut up for a number of years and rented to Mr. Ayer, of Montreal, but I see a loss in connection with that of \$1,036. It is the same with all of them and we will have to go into them in detail.

Mr. FISHER. We expect to ask for a small additional sum for these items and there will be an opportunity to discuss them later on.

Mr. TAYLOR. I know that our agricultural committee want full information and they are not here to-night.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. These items might pass provided it is distinctly understood that any discussion or criticism which may be made on them may be made on any other item of the minister's estimates.

Mr. FISHER. I am quite satisfied with that.