

days ago, when speaking about public business, I pointed out the necessity of passing these Supplementary Estimates so as to make payments for work already done and debts already incurred—services which have been fully rendered and which ought to be paid; and if we enter during the consideration of one item of these Estimates into a review of the Indian Department, and when we come to another item review another department, we will make no progress. It is very important we should pass these Supplementary Estimates, and that they, with those items of the Estimates we have already passed, for Civil Government and Legislation, should be embodied in the form of a Bill, and this Bill be passed through both Houses, and assented to. Otherwise, when to-morrow comes, and after, there will be no money to pay for services which must go on. Under these circumstances I asked that to-day should be given to the Supplementary Estimates. We came together at three o'clock and have wasted eight hours up to the present time, so far as business is concerned, and if we are to enter into a review of every department on items that are not here mentioned and which are not connected with it, we shall certainly not get through these Estimates for a long time. I ask the Chairman to enforce the rules, and I ask hon. gentlemen to cheerfully comply with them, so that we may get through the items; otherwise, I shall be under the necessity of asking the House to adjourn all matters of debate on the Budget and stick to those Estimates until they are through. I am making only a reasonable request, and I hope it will be complied with.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I do not think there is any disposition on the part of the Opposition to discuss the items at greater length than is required, but if the Minister of Finance thinks this is a matter of such urgency—

Mr. FOSTER. I do not want it to be considered that I am putting this forward as a matter of urgency; it is a mere matter of business. Surely an hon. member will not ask us on Supplementary Estimates for the current year, when the regular Estimates are yet to come up, and also Supplementaries for the next year, to enter into a review of the whole Indian Department. I am not pressing this as a matter of courtesy or urgency, but as a mere matter of business. But, in regard to getting these items through with such little discussion as will thoroughly ventilate them, that is a matter of urgency, and I ask hon. gentlemen to bear this in view.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I take it in that way. It is no doubt important to get these items through and have them embodied in a Bill, in order that the public service may be regularly conducted. But whose fault is it if this is not done?

Mr. FOSTER. It is not mine.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Certainly it is yours, or rather it is the fault of the Government of which you are a member. The Government dissolved the House at a time when they thought it suited them, they brought on the election when they thought fit, they called Parliament together at the most inconvenient season, when it was not possible to have the Estimates fully and properly considered; and that being the case, the hon. gentleman must not urge, as a good reason why the Opposition should

forego their duties and not ask information, the urgency of the case.

Mr. FOSTER. I beg your pardon; I was not raising any objection to asking particulars regarding the item under discussion. I merely called attention to the fact that none of the items before the House involved a discussion of the whole policy of the Indian Department.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I do not think the hon. gentleman desires to do so. Certain information is nevertheless required regarding the items. Hon. gentlemen opposite must remember the fact that if inconvenience arises by amounts not being paid before 1st July it is a fault which lies wholly with the Government, and not with the Opposition.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I think there is a general disposition to facilitate the work of the session and pass the Estimates, but I do not think, when the Minister of Finance calls on the Chairman to exercise his authority, he adopts a very wise measure to further public business. It is not desirable, nor will the proceedings of the House be facilitated by doing it. Calling members to order on little items of this kind will not facilitate the business of the House. That is all I want to draw attention to.

Mr. MULOCK. After this waste of time, brought about by the interruption of the Minister of Finance, I will now proceed with the item I was considering, and I hope the gentleman will not delay this business further by again interrupting me as he did this moment. I do not propose to review the whole policy of this department, nor was anything I said fairly open to any such observation. The Minister of Finance is evidently a little excitable this evening over something, I do not know what; at all events, he does not appear to be in his usually cool and calm state of mind.

Mr. FOSTER. I am as cool as a cucumber.

Mr. MULOCK. Then the hon. gentleman will not be excused if hereafter in this discussion he makes such a mistake as he did already. In the account to which I refer, and to which I called the attention of the Minister of Interior at the commencement of this session, he says that the Auditor General is to blame if any larger sum was paid to Mr. Dingman than was disbursed. I presume he will qualify that statement by saying, "unless the payment was based upon some regular allowance."

Mr. DEWDNEY. Yes.

Mr. MULOCK. I would submit, then, that in cases like this it is not fair to the Indian Fund that a larger sum should be charged against that fund for travelling expenses than is really incurred. We are bound to be careful in the administration of that fund.

Mr. DEWDNEY. Is that the report in your hand which states that there is a certain amount paid for a secretary and for rent of an office out of the Indian Fund? The return, as far as I recollect, shows that these travelling expenses were not paid out of the Indian Fund.

Mr. MULOCK. The Minister says that the department allows \$3.50 per day for board, and as these agents are travelling many times a year there are thousands of dollars spent in that way. A