

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: And with Providence.

Mr. FIELDING:—you cannot make an estimate with any accuracy; you have to be dependent upon the work 10 p.m. which it suits their convenience to do. Now, in fairness, while we are on this branch of the subject I must say that we have in times past spent vast sums under the authority of statutes which have not appeared in the Estimates. Let me take as an illustration the railway subsidies. Again and again we have voted railway subsidies and millions—many millions—of dollars have been expended under these Acts, but my recollection is that they never in any case appeared in the Estimates. Let me mention another case. Within my own experience we have spent millions in bounties on steel and iron, and I do not recall any case in which they were mentioned in the Estimates. Why? For the reason I have just given, that they were not Government works; they were operations carried on by corporations over whom the Government had no control; and so long as there was statutory authority to pay the money—at any rate, speaking within my own recollection—I do not think it was customary to mention these sums in the Estimates. I agree that it would be a convenience if you could have a general summing up of the whole thing, but in the case of the operations carried on by corporations that would have to be largely a matter of guess work.

Mr. BELAND: We may at all events draw the conclusion that the amounts specified in the main Estimates do not cover the whole expenditure for next year, and it is a disagreeable revelation that at least \$100,000 can be added to the already very large sum required for the next fiscal year without the public knowing anything about it.

Mr. McMASTER: May I make a suggestion? I think most of the people who take an interest in these matters have been accustomed to feel, though quite wrongly, that the sum total found at the beginning of the Estimates was the amount which the country would have to provide for the fiscal year next ensuing. Now we learn that they are amounts authorized by statute which do not appear in the summary. The fact that some of these amounts do appear in the summary would lead the ordin-

ary reader to suppose that all expenditures authorized by statute do find a place there. In order that the public, who, though they have not taken an interest in the past in our financial condition, are bound to do so in the future, may have a more correct idea of just what the commitments of the country are, I would make this suggestion, which I trust is a reasonable one—that there should appear at the end of the summary a statement of what was paid under the authority of statute which is not mentioned in the summary itself. I quite understand from the statements of the minister and the member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding) that it may be quite difficult to estimate the amounts that are to be paid under any special statute, by way of bounties, for instance; but we should be able to put in a supplementary statement at the end of the summary showing what has been paid under the authority of statutes for the preceding year.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: For the last year?

Mr. McMASTER: Yes, for the last year.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: You find that in the Auditor General's report.

Mr. McMASTER: No doubt all these things are available if one knows just where to look for them, either in the Auditor General's report or in the Public Accounts; but my suggestion is that when persons—members of this House and the outside public who are interested in these matters—come to examine the Estimates, they should have before them in convenient form exactly what is submitted to the House and voted, and what was paid under statute, although difficult of computation, for the past year.

Mr. EULER: The minister seems to take the position that the principle of bounties cannot fairly be discussed in connection with this item. In a sense he is perhaps correct, yet I would like to associate myself with the member for Dorchester (Mr. Cannon) in his opposition to the granting of bounties. I have not heard the minister give any reason whatever why these bounties should continue to be paid, except that they are paid under a statute enacted in 1904. With all respect to the right hon. gentleman, I do not think that is a sufficient reason for their continuance. This matter is directly in his department, and it seems to me that he should proceed