

HON. SENATOR KING

FELICITATIONS ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE
CABINET

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called I desire to say that when I reached my office this evening I was advised that the honourable leader of this House (Hon. Mr. King) was to-day invited by the Prime Minister to join his Cabinet as a Minister without portfolio. It gives me great pleasure to tender to the honourable senator full-hearted congratulations from myself, and I think I can go further and say from every member of this Chamber. I may be permitted also to congratulate the Prime Minister and his colleagues upon inviting our leader to return to the Cabinet Council, in which he sat for many years, first as Minister of Public Works, and later as Minister of Health and Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment. The Government of Canada will be greatly strengthened by the inclusion of my honourable friend in the Cabinet. I wish him good health and many years to serve the country in the future as faithfully and well as he has done in the past.

Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. J. H. KING: Honourable senators, may I express my gratitude to the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) for his remarks, and also to honourable members who so kindly applauded. I well and fully realize that the position of Government leader of this Chamber carries great responsibilities. All I wish to say now is that it is my desire to do everything possible to fill that position to the best of my capacity. I shall work industriously and try to meet the problems that from time to time arise and present themselves to me because of the position I hold. I thank you.

Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 3

FIRST READING

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 81, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1943.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. J. H. KING: Honourable senators, with leave I would move second reading of this Bill to-night. The Clerk has just handed Hon. Mr. KING.

me a note saying that the amount asked for in the Bill as originally drafted, one-sixth of the total supply for the year, has been cut to one-twelfth. It will be remembered that some weeks ago we passed a bill for one-sixth of the year's total. It is common practice for us to receive every session one or more bills for a fraction of the total appropriation, and usually they do not result in any debate here. Honourable senators will notice that there are two money clauses in this Bill. The first asks for one-twelfth of all items in the main Estimates, \$19,401,568.20. That is required to carry on the business of the Government during the next few weeks. The next clause asks for \$550,655.91, which is an additional one-twelfth of certain selected items, made necessary by the seasonal nature of the work provided for. A schedule is attached showing that this money is needed for the Departments of Fisheries, Agriculture, Mines and Resources, and Public Works, and the House of Commons.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, I have not a copy of this Bill before me. After listening to the explanation given by the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. King), the only thing I have to say is that I hope the Government is exerting keen vigilance with regard to ordinary expenditures. There seems to be an impression, right or wrong, that a very large number of persons are employed by the Government in this city and elsewhere, and I sincerely trust that they all are usefully employed. I know that the time and thoughts of all the ministers are concentrated more on the war effort than on ordinary activities of government, and I rise merely to express the hope that the Government will exert every effort—especially as our war expenditures are so heavy—to keep ordinary expenditures down to the very lowest point.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

MOTION FOR THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall this Bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. KING: Now, if there is no objection.

Hon. J. T. HAIG: Honourable senators, I do not want to object, but the Bill has not been distributed to us, and I should like to see it. As originally drafted it asked for about \$38,000,000, but apparently that amount was reduced by one-half in the other House this afternoon. Before we pass the Bill I should like to read what was said about it over there. I am quite willing that third reading should be given this week, but in