

Supply—Miscellaneous

Grant to the Canadian Red Cross Society, further amount \$1,900.

Mr. BENNETT: I should like to say one word indicating the extent to which the people in the western provinces have appreciated the services of this society. I believe the vote might well have been warranted had it involved a much larger sum, in view of the type of service which has been extended by the Red Cross, which, after all, is its obligation under the terms of the peace treaty, it being mentioned in the peace treaty as the medium through which the services contemplated by that document will be carried into effect.

Mr. DUNNING: I do not think the item should be allowed to pass without the committee being advised of the very great, useful and humanitarian work which the Canadian Red Cross did this year in connection with the drought areas in western Canada. The Red Cross took over voluntarily and readily a very difficult portion of the relief work, a portion which I venture to say governmental agencies could not have handled satisfactorily, certainly not as competently or economically. I believe some \$370,000 were collected either in kind or in cash from the people of Canada, and distributed through the Canadian Red Cross in the form of clothing and other essentials which could not readily be dealt with under standardized relief measures.

This \$1,900 brings the Red Cross grant up to the \$10,000 at which for a number of years it stood. I wish to pay my tribute to the very valuable national service rendered by the Red Cross in the dire distress suffered by western Canada.

Item agreed to.

To provide for payment to C. P. Blair, formerly Assistant Commissioner of Customs, compensation for services in connection with the revision of the Customs Act, in the event of same being required, \$2,500.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I understand the hon. member for Parkdale has a question he wishes to ask on this item. It is understood that it may be asked either on the orders of the day to-morrow or on the bill.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

To aid in the re-establishment and re-organization of what are known as the Dried and Pickled Fish branches of the fishing industry of the Atlantic coast, which, owing to world economic conditions, have become acutely depressed, with a view to the rehabilitation of those engaging therein; by granting assistance in processing, storing and marketing; by efforts

[Mr. Dunning.]

to expand the demand for the products of the industry; by assisting in the provision of transportation facilities on portions of the coast where these are inadequate; all under conditions to be approved by the Governor in Council, \$500,000.

Mr. BROOKS: How much of this item will be spent in each province?

Mr. MICHAUD: That is difficult to state in advance. It will depend to what extent there will be compliance with the provisions and regulations being made. This is not for the purpose of giving out subsidies or grants to any particular individual, but rather for the purpose of helping the industry, in so far as those who are already in the industry are willing and ready to comply with the regulations and the terms set out by the government and the department in order to qualify for the subsidy.

Mr. BROOKS: Did the request for the item come from any one particular province, for instance Nova Scotia, or has it come from the maritimes in general? I understand there has been a special request recently from the province of Nova Scotia, for reasons which I think are quite well understood.

Mr. MICHAUD: I believe the hon. member is a little too apprehensive. Although the amount is not as large as is required or as large as the department would like to have it—

Mr. BENNETT: Oh no, surely not the department!

Mr. MICHAUD: It is for the purpose of further implementing the recommendations made by the various boards of inquiry appointed by various governments in the last fifteen years.

Mr. BENNETT: Make it fifty.

Mr. MICHAUD: Yes, I should say fifty. I have the reports and recommendations of boards of inquiry such as the Maclean commission, the price spreads commission, and the economic inquiry in Nova Scotia. Then there was the report of a firm appointed in 1932 by the previous government to make an inquiry and report. I must say we cannot carry out all the recommendations, with the small amount placed at our disposal, but we will continue further to develop our fisheries policy.

Mr. BROOKS: I had intended to say something on the item, but I do not want to prolong the debate. I should like to ask the minister if bait freezers are to be included, and whether one will be established at Caraqueet, or at some other point in the county of Gloucester, New Brunswick?