

Supply Bill

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall dispense with the usual reading of all the items of the estimates, main and supplementary, since it was decided by my predecessor in office, the Hon. Mr. Rhodes, that such motions are considered as non-debatable; I will give only the numbers of the resolutions.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPLY BILL

Right Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (for the Acting Minister of Finance) moved that the House go into committee of Ways and Means.

Motion agreed to and the House went into committee, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Mr. GRAHAM moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1926, the sum of \$184,922,314.28 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. GRAHAM moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1925, the sum of \$341,422.08 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported and concurred in. Mr. Mackenzie King thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 240, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the fiscal year ending respectively March 31, 1925, and March 31, 1926.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first and second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

HOME BANK DEPOSITORS

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That the amendments made by the Senate, as amended in accordance with the report of the managers of the free conference, to Bill 182, an act for the relief of the depositors of the Home Bank of Canada, be agreed to.

I may say that while agreeing to the amendments that have been made, the government still maintains its position and reserves its right to discuss at some future time the constitutional question that may be involved with respect to the right of the Commons in the matter of money bills. Hon.

[Mr. George Black.]

members will have noticed that when the measure was before the House on June 23 I said in the course of my remarks:

It is important the government should place its position clearly on record. It may well be that the conference that will take place between members of this House and members of the Senate, should such a conference be held in further discussion of the reasons alleged here for not accepting the amendments, will not enter into a full discussion of the constitutional relations of the two Houses, but it may nevertheless be sufficient to decide what is the answer with respect to this measure. It is important, however, that the government's position should be clearly stated and of record for all time in the future.

At the conference it was made apparent to the government that no matter how much the Commons might insist on further amendments, their honours of the Senate would not agree to any modification beyond that which had been made. An important modification was the withdrawal of the preamble which the Senate had inserted and which rather emphasized a different point of view from that taken by the Commons as to the basis on which relief would be granted. There was also a further modification which permits all persons in necessitous or straitened circumstances to obtain the benefit of relief, and the managers of the conference on the government side felt that they had pressed the matter as far as it was possible to press it with any hope of gaining consideration. Under the circumstances, seeing that the session has reached the point that it has, it was thought unwise to take any other course with a view to gaining further relief for the depositors of the Home Bank. I may say that on June 20 I received an official communication which I shall read to the House in order that it may be on record. It is as follows:

June 20, 1925.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Premier:

Confirming our conversation with you this day in reference to the action of the Senate upon the bill regarding relief to the depositors of the Home Bank of Canada, we beg to say that we accept the measure of relief thereby accorded to us.

Signed on behalf of the depositors:

W. T. J. LEE,
Chairman,

Home Bank Depositors' National Relief Committee.

H. H. Higginbotham
J. F. Treacy
G. G. Henderson

These gentlemen representing the national committee were very strong in the point of view which they presented, to the effect that the government should not jeopardize the possibility of relief being granted to the