

ed with postal accommodation. Life in these districts is hard enough at the best, and where a man has to travel from five to eight miles to get his mail, I do not think the minister should shut up a post office even if the revenue does not equal the salary of the postmaster. You make enough out of the post offices of the populous districts, and you ought to strain a point to provide the people who live in these outlying districts with postal accommodation.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The east will be treated as fairly as the west; we must not forget that the east has sent all the pioneers to the west. While I intend to maintain in the Post Office Department its business methods and good traditions. I intend at the same time to treat the country districts of the west and of the east in a liberal manner. I understand that we must give the people of this country as good and ample a service as possible. This is the general demand of the public, and, as I said a moment ago, I shall always be pleased to hear the requests from members on either side of the House on this subject.

Mr. FOWLER. And that, I may say, is much more important than to have a large surplus to give good accommodation.

Charges of management—Assistant Receiver General's office, Charlottetown—further amount required, \$300; additional amount required for printing Dominion notes, \$30,000; additional amount required in connection with the issue and redemption of Dominion notes, \$2,000.

Mr. FIELDING. The first item represents a few small increases in the salaries of officials for whom a sufficient provision had not been made. The second item is the usual supplementary vote for the printing of Dominion notes, which is usually taken in two parts. The third item is for the employment of young ladies who countersign the notes. These are the usual and customary services in the department.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If they are usual and customary, why do you not put them in the main estimates?

Mr. FIELDING. I know that my hon. friend always advances that view; but there is always the contingency of this appropriation not being required in the event of there being a check in the circulation. If we could bank on the continued prosperity of the country, my hon. friend's argument would be sound, and I do not know but that in the future we may take this vote in the main estimates.

Charges of management, \$218,937.50.

Mr. FIELDING. These are the usual items of this vote on the basis substantially of the appropriation for the past year.

Mr. FOWLER. Why is there such a difference in the cities? For instance Toronto has 5,850 and Halifax, 6,600.

Mr. FOWLER.

Mr. FIELDING. The office includes not only strictly speaking the office of the Receiver General, but in some cases there is associated with it a savings bank and this is in proportion to the business. In Halifax there is a considerable amount of business of that nature and the staff is larger. In Toronto they have the post office savings banks whereas in the lower provinces we still have to some extent the old government savings banks, but we are gradually amalgamating them with the post office system.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Why can you not do it at once or nearly so?

Mr. FIELDING. You do not want to turn men out. I am following in that the practice of the department, but wherever a vacancy occurs we do not fill it, but we immediately amalgamate the office with the post office.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. It is in pursuance of the policy of not dispensing with the services of old officials, a proper principle.

Mr. FIELDING. As to the whole item, on the basis of last year's appropriation, the amount taking the several items quoted would be \$302,750. Three-fourths of this for the nine months would be \$227,061. We are asking \$218,937.50, a little less than the three-fourths, but it is fair to add that in connection with Dominion notes there will have to be a supplementary estimate later in the year.

Department of Finance and Treasury Board—further amount contingencies, \$1,200.

Mr. FIELDING. I move that this item be struck out. We will provide for it in the estimates for the coming year.

Motion agreed to.

Civil government—Department of Finance and Treasury Board—to provide for the appointment of an Assistant Deputy Minister at the rate of \$3,600 per annum from November 1, 1906, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act, \$1,500; further amount required for contingencies, \$1,200, \$2,700.

Mr. FIELDING. The committee are aware that the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Courtney, who has filled that position for a great many years in a manner which has won the approval of every person who has had anything to do with the public affairs of the country, has been for some time desirous of retiring and as a matter of fact has been holding over his resignation at my request until we could make convenient arrangements for the filling of his position. He has now tendered his resignation to take effect on November 1st. I am proposing to make an appointment as deputy minister at a less salary than I am entitled to allow under the law, and to strengthen the department by bringing in an outside gentleman as an assistant deputy minister, thereby giving the benefit of the new offi-