

Department of Agriculture—for the development of the dairying and fruit industries, and the improvement and transportation of, and the promotion of the sale and trade in food and other agricultural products, payments made from this sum not to be subject to the Civil Service Act, \$115,000.

Mr. TAYLOR. There are gentlemen interested in this subject who are not present to-night. I think this item should stand.

Mr. FISHER. Then take the next item.

Mr. TAYLOR. We did not expect Agriculture would be taken up to-night and we are not prepared to discuss it.

Mr. FISHER. Out of these items are paid the whole of my staff which are engaged in these branches. I cannot pay them out of the civil government, and the consequence is that my agricultural staff, my quarantine staff and health of animal staff have no pay.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Which vote is it that you want?

Mr. FISHER. Particularly the dairy vote, and 46, 47 and 49. I may state that in each of these branches I may ask for a small supplementary estimate, so that they will come up again for discussion. If these items can go through it will be a great boon to my employees in these branches who have not been paid for the last month.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman had money to pay them up to the 15th of last month.

Mr. FISHER. No, my deputy tells me the salaries were not paid.

Mr. TAYLOR. One-eighth was voted.

Mr. FISHER. But there were other things besides salaries that had to be paid.

Mr. TAYLOR. But salaries were included in the eighth.

Mr. FISHER. There were a lot of big accounts that had to be paid at the beginning of the year. We supposed when that eighth was taken that we would get a further supply.

Mr. TAYLOR. That eighth was not voted to pay old accounts.

Mr. FISHER. No, accounts of the current year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Certainly the hon. gentleman did not spend the money before it was voted.

Mr. FISHER. Those things were due on the opening of the fiscal year and are paid out of these accounts. These payments became due on the 1st of April and had to be paid, and the result was that we did not have sufficient to pay salaries.

Mr. BRODER. I understand that the outside service are only paid at the end of the month, not the beginning.

Mr. FISHER. That is the outside service. The civil government vote has nothing to do with my services for dairying, live stock, the seeds division and the experimental farm. The only officers in my department who are paid out of civil government are those in the inside service who are on the civil government list, and that I got through some time ago.

Mr. HENDERSON. There seems to be a misunderstanding on this side of the House. When the eighth of the entire estimates was voted we thought it would apply for each item of the estimates. If we voted one-eighth of the salary account, surely the minister does not mean to tell us that he took it to pay something else with. If the minister did so and thus has kept his employees out of their money, he must not blame us if his men have not been paid.

Mr. FISHER. I am not blaming you.

Mr. HENDERSON. I understand the minister to say that he has taken money that was voted by the House to pay salaries and has paid other accounts with it, and thus has kept the men out of their money.

Mr. FISHER. I must take exception to that. I received one-eighth of those votes for the purposes mentioned in the votes. Salaries are not the only purposes. I had to go on and pay other things which came due as well as salaries. The one-eighth gave me one and a half months salaries and one and a half months of everything else. That one and a half months comprised the month of April and half the month of May, and a portion of the salaries for May was paid, but not the whole, because I did not have enough.

Mr. HENDERSON. The minister will admit that he had lots of money to pay salaries up to the middle of May.

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. HENDERSON. That has been paid?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. HENDERSON. I understand that salaries have actually been paid up to the middle of May?

Mr. FISHER. Up to the middle of May.

Mr. HENDERSON. I do not think my hon. friend has very much to complain of. Is there anything more due?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. HENDERSON. When will the next instalment be due?

Mr. FISHER. The salaries of these people in the outside service are paid at the