

the city sewers, the capital charges for which are being carried by the body of the taxpayers, have become overloaded, with the result that they have to consider a vaster system than has been, which will cost from twenty-five to thirty millions of dollars. The committee is now asked to pay money to Winnipeg for a greater sewer system. As soon as they get the sewers they will want water. I am unable to see why this particular municipality should be singled out for special treatment; it is not fair, and it is contrary to the British North America Act. Why are they under a special direct municipal vote? Furthermore, when they have got the sewers they will probably want the dominion government to defray one-third of the cost of maintaining them, and that would be a very large undertaking. I appreciate the difficulties of Winnipeg in respect to the sewerage system, but every city and town is having difficulties of much the same sewage kind. They have not been able to maintain their systems adequately owing to the depression and the consequent lack of municipal funds. But it is not fair to other municipalities that some municipalities should come to this parliament and have services provided for them at the expense of the country at large. I do not think any other country is doing that kind of thing. As an hon. member has reminded us, Hamilton, Toronto, and other cities for instance, needs assistance in respect to its sewerage system. The same tendency to special treatment of certain places is to be seen in the main estimates, the supplementary estimates and the extra supplementary estimates. Certain places where they vote right receive special treatment; others which don't vote right get nothing. I could mention to the Minister of National Revenue some of those other places which did not get a five cent piece.

Mr. ROGERS: The leader of the opposition has already explained to the house the circumstances under which the dominion government agreed to contribute to the Winnipeg sewerage project. The original agreement was for a year. We inherited that obligation; at the same time we did not seek to evade our own responsibility in relation to it. It was commenced as essentially a health measure because of an acute situation which developed in Winnipeg at that time. I might add that in connection with the whole transaction the negotiations were carried on with the provincial government.

Item agreed to.

To provide for development and training projects for unemployed young people, \$1,000,000.

Mr. MASSEY: I am sure that, considering this particular item, the committee must realize it touches one of the most important subjects which has come before the house this session—not perhaps because of the size of the vote, which certainly is not excessively large, but on account of the importance of the use to which the money will be put. It is to be regretted exceedingly that it is in the dying hours of the session that this particular item is brought to the attention of the committee. After all the object to which the money will be put is one which concerns this dominion as vitally as any item which we have so far considered in this or any other session.

I know that it would be entirely distasteful to hon. members were I or anyone else in this chamber to indulge in a lengthy discussion of this or any other item or to attempt to launch a debate on the subject. Therefore I will confine my remarks to the minimum and endeavour to cover the subject as rapidly as possible.

I fully realize that I am speaking before the minister has had time to state what he has in mind under this vote, and perhaps before I make any remarks he would prefer if I surrendered the floor to him to permit him to give his statement. Or shall I proceed?

Mr. ROGERS: Now?

Mr. MASSEY: Yes.

Mr. ROGERS: This is a new vote, and I had proposed to make a brief statement to the committee respecting the expenditures which it is proposed to make under it. I should say in the beginning that this vote finds a place in the estimates this year by reason of the fact that when the National Employment Commission Act was passed last year provision was made for the appointment of a youth employment committee. We made that provision for this reason, that upon the basis of the knowledge obtained through the registration and classification of the unemployed we believe there was a very special problem as regards the age group of, let us say, eighteen to twenty-five years, the younger members of the community who have completed their school years and have been obliged to seek employment under conditions most unfavourable to gaining employment. There has been and possibly will be in parliament a measure of criticism respecting the setting up of the youth employment committee. Possibly that criticism will extend to the segregation, for special consideration, of a particular group of the unemployed.