

more material she can remove, the more quickly she will finish.

Item agreed to.

Ottawa public buildings—heating, including salaries of engineers, firemen and watchmen, further amount required, \$167,000.

Mr. PARDEE: At what points is this to be expended?

Mr. McCURDY: \$142,000 is required to pay the salaries of engineers and firemen, and \$25,282 to pay for coal.

Mr. McKENZIE: What Supplementary Estimates are these?

Mr. McCURDY: These are to complete last year's expenditures.

Mr. McKENZIE: This is money the Government has expended without the authority of Parliament. How do we get into that scrape?

Mr. McCURDY: We are coming to Parliament now for authority to expend this money. Conditions in the coal trade could hardly be forecasted at the beginning of last year. Prices have gone up, and this is the further amount we require. The coal has been supplied, but we cannot pay the contractors until the money is voted. The contractors have been waiting three or four months for their pay.

Mr. McKENZIE: But the money is expended already.

Mr. McCURDY: In effect.

Mr. McKENZIE: And it has been expended without authority. Why does not the department ask for the proper amount of money in the first place, instead of cutting down the Estimates with the idea of making them look small and then asking for supplementary votes to make up the deficiency? That is not business like.

Mr. McCURDY: You can either ask for a little more than you want, or a little less than you would like to have. I had rather expected to be commended because we had asked the House for a little less than we actually required.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): My hon. friend and his colleagues are asking for \$14,000,000 in these further Supplementary Estimates. It looks as if the whole thing was going wild. I see that some of it is chargeable to capital, and has been expended without authority. It is unprecedented in my experience to have an expenditure on capital account without Parliamentary authority.

Mr. McCURDY: We have no capital expenditure.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): It may not be in this department, but there is an expenditure on capital account in these Supplementary Estimates. Then we have items like this: overtime, \$25,000; miscellaneous, further amount required, \$235,000.

Mr. McCURDY: I can give my hon. friend the details of any vote that I am asking for.

Mr. McKENZIE: It is bad business. When the party I support was in power there was nothing fought so bitterly by hon. gentlemen then in Opposition as any expenditure of this kind, when a minister would dare to come to the House after he had expended the money and ask for a blanket authority to cover it. We have \$14,000,000 in these Supplementary Estimates, which has been expended by the different departments without any authority at all. Very poor calculations must have been made in the first place when such a further large amount is required. There is no disposition on the part of the House to refuse any vote a minister may properly ask, but the minister should figure out with some degree of accuracy the amount he requires, put it in the Estimates, get the money, and then expend it properly; but he comes here with a haphazard guess, and between them they are \$14,000,000 short, which they have expended without the slightest particle of authority. I do not know how the \$14,000,000 is divided as between the different departments, but this money has been expended and must be paid. That is not the proper way to do business, and I hope in the future the Minister of Public Works will figure more closely what he requires, and ask for that amount, and not bring down Supplementary Estimates of this kind.

Mr. McCURDY: I am afraid my hon. friend has a very short memory. He referred to the time when the Government which he supported was criticised for bringing down Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. McKENZIE: And for very small amounts.

Mr. McCURDY: All I am asking for is \$543,270. My hon. friend thinks that is a monstrous proceeding. I find that in 1908-09, the Department of Public Works, instead of asking for \$543,270, asked for \$1,285,366.73.