

purpose when required. I suggest that the minister increase the vote or otherwise make provision for such contingency before the House rises.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If this amount is not sufficient, I will undertake on behalf of the government to say that we will ask parliament for a supplementary vote when we next assemble.

Item agreed to.

Railways and Canals—chargeable to capital—Canadian Pacific Railway—original construction, \$71.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What is this original construction grant to the Canadian Pacific railway, \$71?

Mr. DUNNING: I think my hon. friend has sat in the House a number of years when similar items have been passed. This is to provide for the payment to John Murray for Lot 6, Block 6, D.L. 201, Port Moody, B.C., of an amount of \$35.75 and interest at 5 per cent since 1908. Property was expropriated in 1885 in connection with the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway. The owner was unable to prove title at that time, and the lot has never been paid for by the government. The title of John Murray to property was established in 1908, but this was not brought to the attention of the department until 1919. Subsequent investigations substantiate Mr. John Murray's right to claim compensation, and it is now considered necessary that the money be voted by specific appropriation. Mr. Murray has agreed to accept \$35.75 and interest since 1908 in settlement for the property.

Item agreed to.

Canals—Welland ship canal—to provide for payment to P. Lyall and Sons Construction Co. of compensation on account of washing rock excavated during 1926, from section No. 4—not anticipated at time tenders were called for, \$38,823.

Mr. PETTIT: Will the minister explain this item?

Mr. DUNNING: A large portion of the rock to be moved was dirty, intermixed with clay. Inasmuch as the contract called for the contractor to take out the rock of another section of the canal to be used in connection with cement work, it was necessary to provide for the washing of the dirty rock. My hon. friend is familiar with the situation in that regard. The amount here has reference to the rock taken out and washed during 1926. There will be a further quantity of approximately 100,000 cubic yards in 1927.

Mr. PETTIT: Where is the work being done?

Mr. DUNNING: The rock which is washed is excavated from section 4 before being crushed for concrete for sections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Item agreed to.

Harbours and rivers, Quebec, \$1,135,643.05.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I do not suppose there is the slightest use in a lone voice being raised in protest against the present method of passing estimates. I have no knowledge whatever of the merits of these items, and I do not know what the object is in spending these enormous sums of money. However, I do not wish to delay or obstruct in any way the obvious and deliberate intention of both parties to get done.

Mr. DUNNING: Your own included.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Again I protest most vigorously against the passing of these estimates without proper consideration.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: We are sent here presumably to scrutinize the estimates but we have no opportunity of doing so. Some of us are anxious to get home but we owe a duty to the people and if we allow the estimates to go through now in this manner it ought to be on the distinct understanding that early next session the estimates will be submitted to the proper committee for close scrutiny in detail. The deputy ministers could then be examined. The present method of rushing the estimates through is a farce and the public is beginning to realize it. We can no longer be mere rubber stamps to O.K. these estimates. I suggest that the government should give us an undertaking that next session the estimates will be submitted early to an appropriate committee.

Mr. CANNON: Any member who wishes to do so is always at liberty to ask the public accounts committee to investigate any expenditure.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The Solicitor General is pleasingly ironical. He knows that such a process of examination is like closing the door of the barn after the horse is stolen. I have never heard such a childish proposal coming from a minister.

Mr. DUNNING: The hon. member's own party agreed to it. Why this hypocrisy?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I was one of those who objected to rushing the estimates through.