

since then indicating the determination of the government to have that committee set up as soon as possible after the next session is convened. Every single point which my hon. friend has referred to was carefully considered by that committee last year. The question of having estimates referred to committees was one upon which we could not agree, and as regards the limitation of debate we made specific recommendations to the house. We did not however receive great respect or support from the house when our report came in. I hope that at the next session the committee, whoever its members may be, will have greater success than we had last year in regard to the very constructive suggestions of the hon. gentlemen.

Mr. ADAMSON: I suggest that the degree of desperation that is obviously prevalent in this house now may bring results when the committee meets again.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I am sorry my hon. friend feels that way.

Item agreed to.

House of Commons—
120. Estimates of the Sergeant at Arms, \$332,767.

Mr. MacNICOL: If I am correct, the house for some time was without a permanent Sergeant at Arms. I should like to know who performed the duties of Sergeant at Arms in the interim and what his remuneration was.

Mr. SPEAKER: During that time, the Clerk of the House, Doctor Beauchesne, acted as Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. MacNICOL: Was he compensated for that considerable amount of extra work?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not believe he was, and I should be pleased if it were the wish of the house that he should receive some compensation for his services in that regard.

Mr. MacNICOL: Perhaps I should not say anything with the Clerk present, but he has always been very helpful to every one of us. He has always been willing and ready to assist us in any possible way, and if he did all that extra work I suggest that he should receive some compensation. It does not sound reasonable to me that he should not.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am pleased that the hon. gentleman has brought the matter to the attention of the committee, I shall bring his remarks to the notice of the internal committee on the administration of the house, in the hope that we shall succeed in our representations.

Mr. Mackenzie

Mr. BRACKEN: I suggest that Mr. Speaker use his influence with the government as well.

Mr. MACKENZIE: The suggestion is noted.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I wish to bring to the attention of the government a matter that I brought up before when the public works estimates were under consideration. On that occasion I spoke briefly, as I shall again, but I wish the committee to remember that the importance of my remarks is in inverse ratio to their brevity. I spoke then on the lamentable wages and salaries paid to those who work in this house to promote our comfort and convenience. I should like to draw the attention of the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Minister of Labour to the fact that there are several messengers on this staff, men who were in the army for four or five years and who served overseas, who are going to be out of work when this house rises; and as far as I know no provision is being made by the government for their employment. That is a heartless and callous way to treat these men. The other matter is that the low salaries which are paid do not give the employees of this House of Commons a chance to live in decency, and I would strongly urge the government to review these wages and increase them, so that this parliament may give a lead to industry and commerce in the matter of wages and salaries paid to employees.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will take into consideration the remarks of the hon. gentleman, and he may be sure that I have as much sympathy for the employees of the house as he has. If it is possible to do something in order to be fair to them I shall do it with pleasure.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I appreciate Your Honour's sympathy, but these men are going to be out of work in a day or two. Can the Minister of Veterans Affairs tell us if he has made any plans to give these men work to tide them over? They have nothing to look forward to. They fought for this country, and now they get \$4 a day here. Surely you are just not going to put them out on the street like that, just before Christmas.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I think I can say that over the years I have had as much sympathy with ex-service men as any man in this house. The case of these men has been brought to my attention, and I have taken action, instead of talking about it.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): That is very good.