

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. ROBB: Before recess the leader of the opposition (Mr. Meighen) asked for information with reference to certain expenditures between the years 1922 and 1925 in connection with this vote. The following expenditures were made in connection with the negotiation of treaties in 1922-23:

French, Belgian and Italian treaties—	
Right Hon. W. S. Fielding.. . . .	\$4,434 00
J. A. Russell.. . . .	1,797 37
R. B. Viets.. . . .	2,033 46
	\$8,264 83

Mr. Viets acted as private secretary and legal adviser.

In 1923-24 there were no expenditures. In 1924-25 they were as follows:

Trade Arrangement with Spain—	
Hon. E. Lapointe.. . . .	\$1,680 00
Mr. W. McL. Clarke.. . . .	2,015 31
	\$3,695 31

Mr. Clarke is our trade agent at Milan, in Italy, and this expenditure was incurred in connection with a trade arrangement which we have been completing with Spain.

Mr. MANION: I understand that before six o'clock we were discussing the Australian treaty. Can the minister tell us what progress has been made in that direction?

Mr. ROBB: I cannot give any information in that regard at present.

Mr. LEADER: What progress has the government made in the matter of treaty negotiations with the United States? I believe there is a standing offer from this government to the United States, made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding).

Mr. ROBB: The United States has not responded as favourably as we desired, but we are not without hope that a more favourable attitude will be assumed in Washington towards Canada.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How favourably have they responded?

Mr. ROBB: Well, not as far as we would wish.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will my hon. friend indicate just what they have done in the way of response?

Mr. ROBB: No, I could not.

[Mr. Meighen].

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not think he could.

Mr. LEADER: Have the government renewed their activities in that regard?

Mr. JACOBS: When we appoint an envoy at Washington he will probably make things go a little more rapidly.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Would it not be wise on the part of the Acting Minister of Finance or the government to make some gesture in order to satisfy hon. gentlemen to my left? They do not need to make any to satisfy themselves.

Mr. JACOBS: Is not the appointment of an envoy a gesture?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Mostly so.

Item agreed to.

Grant to the National Battlefields Commission—	
(a) For expenses of administration.. . . .	\$ 6,000
(b) For maintenance of the National Battlefields Park.. . . .	35,000
(c) For maintenance of Martello towers, numbers 2 and 4.. . . .	1,000
(d) For new works in the park.. . . .	
	\$42,000

Mr. MANION: What is being done by the commission?

Mr. ROBB: The National Battlefields Commission has been in existence for a number of years. The money is paid over to the commission by way of grants. It was constituted in 1908 by act of parliament. The object was to preserve the battlefields of Quebec. The commissioners were empowered to acquire land and to receive and expend money, whether appropriated by parliament or contributed by individuals. The Minister of Finance was authorized to pay from the consolidated fund the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose set forth in the act. This grant, together with amounts received from public subscriptions, was sufficient to meet all charges up to and including the fiscal year, 1911-12. Subsequently it has been necessary to vote and pay over to the commission the following amounts: 1912-13, \$116,500; 1913-14, \$145,000; 1914-15, \$143,000; 1915-16, \$118,100; 1916-17, \$34,160; 1917-18, \$52,100; 1918-19, \$39,550; 1919-20, \$36,450; 1920-21, \$41,450; 1921-22, \$51,600; 1922-23, \$42,000; 1923-24, \$41,600; 1924-25, \$47,000. The chairman is Sir George Garneau, the secretary, C. E. Gauvin.

Mr. MANION: Are these moneys spent entirely in the province of Quebec?

Mr. ROBB: On the battlefield of Quebec where Wolfe and Montcalm fought.