

trade, whereas you can only find two Canadian trade commissioners in that vast territory you may make up your mind that we do not deserve to get very much of the business originating there. To my mind the matter of our export trade is the great question before Canada to-day, particularly eastern Canada. They talk down in the Maritime provinces about building up industries by protection. Why, we have tried it for fifty years and we have failed. If you do not believe me, ask Mr. McCurdy. If you do not believe that gentleman, ask the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Black) after the speech he has made here to-night. Prosperity in eastern Canada depends upon export trade. However, I am getting drawn into another wide subject and I will not further continue along that line. Let me urge upon the minister that when he brings down his supplementary estimates he will increase the vote for this service, because it is of the most supreme importance. I am afraid the policy we are now carrying on is a good deal of a cheese-paring policy. Economy is a great thing, but a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy is not good for the export trade of this or any other country.

Item agreed to.

Soldiers Civil Re-Establishment—salaries, \$21,500.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How late does the minister want to keep the House to-night? He got a lot of business through to-day.

Mr. STEVENS: Is this the first vote to this department?

Mr. BELAND: It is, yes.

Mr. McMASTER: We should get started it seems.

Mr. BELAND: This is a very small item.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the vote carry.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This is something that has been objected to always, this sliding from the estimates of one department into those of another. The intention of the act is that each department shall be gone into separately so that if necessary a motion referring to it may be made before the estimates are taken up. That cannot be done if the minister slides into his estimates in this way. In saying that I do not intend any special reflection as respecting his department. I think the government ought to be satisfied with the very large amount of business put through to-day, especially in view of the eleven o'clock adjournment.

[Mr. Logan.]

Mr. BELAND: My right hon. friend is aware, that this has been done before.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Always under protest.

Mr. BELAND: In one case an item was considered in the evening for the first time some weeks ago, and we have now reached a much later period of the session. Of course I do not insist at all; if my right hon. friend says that we cannot get this vote to-night we shall have to go into committee some other day.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I report progress on this resolution?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, on the previous resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: This item, No. 36, stands.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Not called.

Department of Trade and Commerce—culling timber, annuity for one superannuated culler, \$200.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I wonder what the idea is in calling this item to-night at this hour? Perhaps it is because the minister thinks that nothing more can be said on his estimates? I do not know whether he is going to make any plea for economy under this item. The minister has been talking about economy, and before closing for the night I am going to give him one or two facts arising out of his estimates. Instead of bringing about economy these estimates represent a substantial increase over the estimates of 1921-22, over the estimates that the government delights in pointing out were such high estimates, such tremendous estimates, estimates representing such tremendous extravagance as to justify the Prime Minister making the remarks that he did. The estimates for this department for 1921-22 amounted to \$3,727,333. Now the estimates this year, and we are told there are going to be supplementaries, involve an increase of \$214,472. The estimates for 1921-22, included an increase for the purposes of the Dominion census, which amounted to \$1,620,000, so that we have in the exercise of this wonderful economy this year in connection with this one department an increase of \$1,834,472 over the estimates of 1921-22 which this government have described as extravagant. I would suggest that during the adjournment my hon. friend consider these figures, that he read with some profit and turn to some use the speech of his right hon. leader in connection with the former government, and see if he cannot get down to the level of the former