

the supplementary estimates something in the way of relief for those who have been let out from the Department of the Interior. I thought at one time that this matter was being favourably considered, especially the suggestion that five years should be added to the length of service of those who had not reached thirty-five years of service. To have done this would have served a very useful purpose. I had other observations to make on this item, but I will defer them until next session.

The Prime Minister is very much concerned, as it is his duty to be, about unemployment, and I hope that he will find some way of using some of the money which has been appropriated to-day in an endeavour to relieve the situation in Ottawa. Six hundred employees have been let out, and when their families are considered the total number affected would amount to probably 2,500. This has caused a tremendous disturbance of economic conditions in this city, as a large number of merchants, dealers and others have thereby also been affected. These employees have been let out without notice and I trust the administration will give their case favourable consideration.

Mr. BENNETT: The observations of the hon. gentleman have been noted and his representations have not been overlooked. However, it is impossible to deal with this matter until such time as we have ascertained to what extent the other departments of the service will be able to absorb these employees. If the hon. gentleman sees fit between now and next session to make such representations as he may be advised to make on behalf of those for whom he speaks, they will be looked into and if possible consideration will be given.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I thank the Prime Minister for his very considerate reply.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Salaries—to provide hereby for the continuance in office of G. W. Dawson as departmental purchasing agent, grade 5, from February 13, 1931 to March 31, 1932, \$1.

Mr. BENNETT: This is a case where the gentleman involved is beyond the age of seventy. As he is continuing in the service, the vote of \$1 is to indicate that no order in council is being passed. This vote is being put in the estimates in order to show that parliament is giving its approval of this action.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Mr. NEILL: There are a number of works urgently required throughout the province, and I hope that advantage will be taken of the sum voted for unemployment in order to complete some of these requirements. Much of this work would be in the nature of a stitch in time; if it is not done to-day it may prove to be very costly in the future. This work would supply employment to the local people as well as to make much needed repairs of wharves, floats and so on.

To provide for payments to the railways in connection with movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor general in council and for the cost of administration thereof, \$1,428,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This is superseded, because of its wording, by a new item which appears in the estimates which were submitted this morning.

Item dropped.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

To provide for the administration of the Income War Tax Act, 1917, and amendments thereof, and authority for this purpose to create positions and make appointments, notwithstanding anything contained in the Civil Service Act, and the said positions and staff so appointed are hereby wholly excluded from the operation of the said act—further amount required, \$350,000.

To provide for expenses of maintenance of revenue cruisers and for preventive service—further amount required, \$150,000.—Total, \$500,000.

Mr. RALSTON: I notice the Minister of National Revenue is not in the chamber at the moment.

Mr. BENNETT: He is not in very good health to-day and he has retired, but I am familiar with the matter.

Mr. RALSTON: I wish to refer to a matter that came up the other night with regard to the dismissal of an officer in the provincial service, concerning which I spoke to my hon. friend, and he said he would have the matter looked into. Since then I have received a return. I am sorry at this late date to have to take up the time of the committee to bring the matter up, but I shall take only a moment. This is the case of a man named Norman MacDonald, in Pictou, Nova Scotia. The minister stated the other night that this man was a very efficient officer in every way. He seems to have been appointed in May, 1927. On March 19, 1931, a certificate was given by the hon. member for Pictou to the minister as follows:

I have personal knowledge that Mr. Norman MacDonald, preventive officer at Trenton, N.S.,