

that Henry Borden took the taxpayers' money for the interests of the Progressive Conservative party, then the people of this country should know it, and the man responsible in this connection is the Minister of Munitions and Supply. I should like him to rise now in his place and tell us.

Mr. HOWE: What am I responsible for?

Mr. ROWE: You are responsible for your department. One of your supporters this afternoon says that a member of your department stole money from your department to give to the party represented on this side of the house.

Mr. POULIOT: I did not say that. I said that he ate the cheese—and a big one.

Mr. ROWE: Many a rat has been choked by such a type of cheese. I think the hour has struck when we should know whether this is just noise or whether there is anything to it. The man responsible is the Minister of Munitions and Supply, and I would like him to tell me now whether Henry Borden, as a civil servant and a close colleague of his—

An hon. MEMBER: Sit down.

Mr. ROWE: I will sit down when I am ready.

Mr. HOWE: You asked a question.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe is not through with his question.

Mr. ROWE: Now I will sit down and listen while the Minister of Munitions and Supply tells us whether what the hon. member for Temiscouata has told us is true; and in fairness to a man who is not here to answer for himself I hope we shall get the truth.

Mr. HOWE: The question of Mr. Henry Borden is not, in my opinion, in question in this house. Mr. Henry Borden was one of the first men to come to the aid of the government when war broke out. He served in the Department of Munitions and Supply and its predecessor for some five years. No man worked harder for the cause than Mr. Henry Borden. He did his work without salary. Certain fees inadvertently went to his law firm; he was so meticulous that each year he traced down any fees which arose out of clients of the department or those associated with the department and returned a cheque to the Receiver General of Canada for those fees. Subsequently he left the department. He took part in the political campaign, which certainly was as much his right as it was my right or that of anyone else. Of course I know nothing about his operations after he

[Mr. Rowe.]

left the department, but I will say this, that no man ever left the service of Canada with a better record of public service and devotion to duty than Mr. Henry Borden.

Mr. ROWE: Now I think the hon. member for Temiscouata should give us the reasons for the statement he made. He has heard from the minister.

The CHAIRMAN: I am in the hands of the committee, but I understood the committee directed me to endeavour to have these estimates carried item by item. The item under consideration is termination of contracts. Does the item carry?

Mr. BRACKEN: Mr. Chairman, before you leave this item I should like to commend the minister for the very fair statement he has made about one who was a former servant of this government.

Item agreed to.

Mr. HOWE: There are two other items which do not require a vote, and are simply noted here: they are the expected recoveries, first from loans to commodity companies. As hon. members know, it was necessary from time to time to buy certain materials which could not be obtained within the country, such as wool, rubber and other commodities, also certain rare metals—tin and antimony. We anticipated a recovery on these items this year of \$5 million from liquidation of those inventories. Up to August 31 we had recovered \$3,538,368, and during the remainder of the year we expect to recover at least the balance of the \$5 million. Then, for revolving funds for working capital, our estimate for recoveries was \$150 million. By August 31 we had recovered \$125 million odd, and the balance, and probably considerably more, will be recovered in the course of the current year.

Mr. MACDONNELL: I do not wish to take more than a moment on this, but would it be agreeable to have it understood that any further understanding or explanation regarding this last figure may be had in committee if we so desire?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. MacNICOL: May I ask the minister a question with reference to a reply he gave me yesterday, if it is in order? I asked something about Dominion Magnesium Metals, which has a plant at Haley's. The minister stated it had been sold, and I then asked if Canada received any consideration for the investment made in the plant, which my memory told me was \$5 million. I may be wrong in that, but that is my memory. The