

in 1939, since when, as honourable members know, very marked increases have occurred.

The entire main estimates aggregate \$1,985 million, and there are first supplementary estimates of \$197 million and further supplementaries of \$10,000,000—a total of \$2,192 million. Compared with the total authorized expenditure last year of \$2,199 million, there is a slight decrease, amounting to roughly \$7,000,000. In the last ten years the sum required for national expenditures has risen from \$553 million to \$2,192 million. I do not need to enlarge on the fact that this is a very substantial increase.

Rather than attempt a detailed analysis of these estimates, I propose to divide them into six classifications, namely fiscal, military, social security, public works, subsidies, and all others, and to quote some comparative figures as I go along.

Under the classification "fiscal" I include interest on public debt and payments to provinces. Honourable senators will be interested to know that whereas in 1939 the total expenditures under this head were \$142 million, the total of the main estimates and supplementaries amounts this year to \$554 million.

The next classification is "military," comprising national defence and expenditures in connection with all forms of assistance to veterans. In 1939 the total was \$77,000,000; today it is \$575 million, lacking only \$2,000,000 of an increase of \$500 million.

Under "social security" five items are included, namely family allowances, old age and blind pensions; unemployment insurance; health grants; and other services. Our total expenditure in 1939 was \$76,000,000; today provision under the main and supplementary estimates amounts to \$425 million.

In the category of "public works" is included housing, other reconstruction, public works and flood relief. The last-named item, for which \$10,000,000 is provided, is for assistance in British Columbia. Public works expenditures in 1939 were \$21,000,000; this year the amount to be provided is \$197 million, an increase of \$176 million. Housing alone accounts for \$69,000,000.

The Wartime Prices and Trade Board and Agricultural Subsidies showed a blank for 1939, but the estimated expenditures for this year are \$61,000,000.

In 1939 expenditures for ordinary functions of government, with which honourable senators are all familiar, amounted to \$237 million, as compared with a figure of \$380 million for 1948.

The activities of certain government departments have been increased, as has the wage

scale, but the outstanding feature in relation to the total expenditure is the increase to \$2,192 million from the relatively small figure of \$553 million. The major items of increase are in connection with interest on the public debt, payments to provinces, national defence, veterans affairs, social security, and various types of public works, including housing. Whether or not these figures should have been materially less is a matter of opinion. Although there is always demand for a material reduction in the cost of government, it must be remembered that there has been steady pressure for an increase of many of these items. It is questionable whether the estimate of \$251 million for national defence is enough. Many eminent public men with military experience claim that it should be much larger. An amount of \$324 millions has been set aside for veterans affairs. Few would suggest that it should be reduced, but there are many who think it should be increased. I believe that in the later part of the session representations were made to the Veterans' Committee in another place to have the already huge sum increased. And so it is down the scale.

Honourable senators, I have not attempted to go into any of the countless details—with many of which I am not too familiar—because I did not anticipate that we would have so much time at our disposal at this period of the session. But I thought the house would like to have a brief reference to pre-war expenditures in those six classifications, with which all honourable senators are familiar.

Hon. W. M. ASELTINE: Honourable senators, the figures which the leader of the government has just given us are startling, to say the least. We had all been hoping that in the years following the end of the war the government's expenditures would have decreased much more than they appear to have done. However, this chamber seemingly cannot do much about the matter.

As the leader of the government stated, these estimates have been before us in printed form for some weeks, and I have no doubt that honourable senators have been studying them. I have spent several days going over the long list of items, and I find that some of them are very interesting. I even noticed one of \$25,000 for a public building at Rose-town, Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Why build anything there?

Hon. Mr. ASELTINE: I hope that is for a new post office building, for we have none there now that is worthy of the name. I have