

those contracts? Do we know what the contracts contain? However, I am not going to ask the Leader of the Government to hold up the bill today.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I think those are in the estimates now. They are contracts which were made before the estimates were brought down. The same thing was done in previous years, as I explained in my remarks a few minutes ago.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: They were not in any interim supply bills that were passed last year, and I do not recall them appearing in any interim supply bill. I think the Leader of the Government said that it was in an Interim Supply Bill in 1926.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: In 1926 and 1940, when it was impossible to bring down the estimates on account of circumstances which prevailed at the time. But they were included in the estimates when the estimates were brought down.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I have looked through the estimates and cannot get any information there about any contracts that were entered into between the 31st of March and the 13th of May. The honourable leader refers to the years 1926 and 1940. I have not read Hansard of those years, and it is possible that the then leader gave the house some information about the contracts of that time. I do not know. But we have no information about the contracts referred to in clause 4 of this bill, so by approving of them we shall be voting blindly. However, as I said, I am not going to ask that the bill be held up in order that we may obtain the information. When the Leader of the Government brings down the next interim supply bill he may be able to enlighten us with respect to these contracts.

Clause 5 gives the Governor in Council power to raise a loan of \$1 billion for public works and general purposes. The honourable Leader of the Government said it is usual to pass a supply bill containing that or a similar clause. I have some recollection of such a clause, but I am not clear on it. However, I have looked up interim supply bills passed by this house at the last session, and I do not see a similar clause. Is it suggested that this clause was previously set forth by itself in a separate bill? Certainly, it is unusual to have such a clause in a bill of this nature. Probably the leader can give us some further information on it.

Honourable senators, I have no further remarks to make on the bill. As I said in my opening remarks, the purpose of the bill is largely to put the Government in funds to pay its bills which must be paid, up to the end of this month. At the end of this

month we will doubtless receive another interim supply bill to put the Government in funds to make another payment.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, may I deal first with the question of contracts? I believe the Government has no objection whatever to tabling the contracts, though I do not know how much effort it would take to pile them on the table, as there may be a large number of them.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Probably we might have a summary of them.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I will look into that matter further, honourable senators.

I think it will be found that a clause similar to clause 5 appeared in the second Appropriation Bill last year.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Maybe.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Probably such a clause was not in the first supply bill.

With regard to section 3, may I repeat what I said earlier, that the provisions of this new section describe in definite terms for the first time the principles that have been accepted and acted upon during the years. The section is just a safeguard, but I think it is important and should be there.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, we are considering a motion for supply and, as I understand it, I am in order in making some general remarks regarding some of the matters referred to in the bill. For instance, I see it appropriates some money for the Department of Labour, and that brings up almost everything that has recently taken place in connection with labour. We have just gone through an important strike on one of the railways. As that strike has been settled, the differences between the parties is a thing of the past, and I am not particularly concerned with it. What I am concerned with at the moment is the position of John Q. Public in connection with these matters.

The Canadian Pacific Railway seems to have won the strike, so far as the men are concerned, but, so far as I know, no attention has been paid by the Prime Minister or by the Minister of Labour to the effect of this settlement on the general public and the safety of the travelling public.

I happened to have sat as a member of the Board of Conciliation which heard the evidence in connection with these matters over a period of about three weeks. We heard no less than 50 witnesses. In that connection, of course, I learned something of the matters in issue, and I made a report in which I considered the interests of the public as well as those of the two contesting parties. I would like now to call to the attention of