

## Supply—Finance

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL

## SENATE AMENDMENT

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior) moved the second reading of and concurrence in the amendment made by the Senate to Bill No. 151 to amend the Northwest Territories Act.

Motion agreed to; amendment read the second time and concurred in.

## SUPPLY

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The House in committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Department of Finance—charges of management—offices of the Assistant Receivers General—salaries, \$118,000; contingencies, \$15,000.

Mr. HANSON: How many Assistant Receivers General are there, and where are they located?

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance): There are offices in Toronto, St. John, Winnipeg, Halifax, Victoria, Regina, Calgary, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; and in Montreal the City and District Savings Bank acts as assistant receiver general.

Mr. RYCKMAN: What is the average salary?

Mr. ROBB: Toronto, \$3,540; Winnipeg, \$3,540; Halifax, \$2,610; St. John, \$3,060; Victoria, \$3,060; Regina, \$2,610—

Mr. RYCKMAN: That is sufficient.

Mr. SPENCER: Why is there this difference in the salaries? Is it because of length of service?

Mr. ROBB: I imagine so.

Item agreed to.

Printing Dominion notes, \$450,000.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I notice that under this item there has been a reduction, which is probably something to be approved of. Is this reduction possible because of lesser cost of printing?

Mr. ROBB: The reduction of \$15,000 is due to the lower contract rate.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What was the number of notes printed under this vote in 1924 and in 1923?

Mr. ROBB: I do not know that I can give that, but I can give the estimated number of sheets required: of one-dollar notes, 5,000,000; of two-dollar notes, 875,000; of five-dollar notes, 100,000; of fractionals, 67,000.

[Mr. Graham.]

Mr. HANSON: Is this work done by tender?

Mr. ROBB: Yes.

Mr. HANSON: From whom are tenders asked?

Mr. ROBB: The printing is done now by the Canadian Bank Note Company. In April, 1924, tenders were invited for the five-year period from October 1, 1925. Tenders were received from the Canadian Bank Note Company, Limited, the Dominion Bank Note Company, and the British American Bank Note Company. The first two tendered for the whole work; their tenders were approximately the same. The tender from the British American Bank Note Company covered postal supplies only. The prices quoted were not considered satisfactory by the department and the tenders were refused. After negotiations with the present contractor, the Canadian Bank Note Company, an agreement was entered into providing for a decrease of five per cent from the prices stipulated in the previous contract. This agreement covers five years from April 1, 1925 and gives the government the benefit of a five per cent decrease for the last six months of the old contract, representing a saving of approximately \$25,000. Compared with the old contract, the saving effected over the period covering the five years is approximately \$250,000.

Mr. SPENCER: Is it the intention of the government to continue the printing of fractional notes—those for sums less than a dollar?

Mr. ROBB: Yes. They are pretty nearly out of circulation, but they are useful in making remittances and that sort of thing.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: In view of the large profits accruing to the companies printing government notes, has the department ever considered the advantages that might come from having this printing done by the government itself?

Mr. ROBB: I am not sure that they are making a very great profit. They showed us their books, and the profits are not so very large. The work of this company is very satisfactory indeed. I visited the establishment of a concern in London, England, who are large printers and engravers of currencies, and I reached the conclusion that our plant here in Canada was rather superior to what they have overseas. These people in Canada, and through their connections in the United States, print for many of the countries of the world.