

they have to take the risk of waiting for their money. It was explained to us that, owing to favourable conditions, it was not economical to stop the dredging at a particular season of the year, and that to postpone the dredging would make it more expensive. That is the explanation of that \$1,000,000 the minister mentioned. I do not know whether this was one of the firms or not. As a matter of fact the contract was a contract to do the work, not to lift so many yards of material from the bed of the river. The work was all done down to the Quebec bridge, on the main river St. Lawrence, and in the entrance out to sea the dredging was still further completed. But the only pay the contractors could get was for what was completed in a particular year. This is to pay for the balance of the year?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Item agreed to.

To provide for the maintenance and repair of retaining dams in the St. Lawrence river—further amount required, \$61,360.

Mr. STEWART: What is the explanation of this vote?

Mr. HOWE: It is a contract with the Dufresne Construction Company for maintenance of a submerged weir in the river. I believe we have stopped the work forever. It seems to pile up and subside every year, and we believe that if we let it subside we could do without it.

Mr. BENNETT: It was backed by a report of several eminent engineers.

Item agreed to.

Labour—Annuities Act, further amount required, \$40,000.

Mr. BENNETT: We did desire to discuss this item at length, but in view of what has been said I shall waive my right. However, this annuities matter requires a great deal of consideration. If I may be permitted to mention the name of the other chamber, I would say that the senate is now investigating the matter. In not going into it this afternoon I assume opportunity will be given for full discussion on the main estimates.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Public Printing and Stationery—codifying, printing and binding, 1,000 copies of the revised edition of the Criminal Code 1927, French, \$3,915.13.

Mr. STEWART: I suppose the supply must have run out.

Mr. BENNETT: No; there was an error in the printing of the French version, and it had to be reprinted.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. RINFRET: There was an order to reprint passed by the former government.

Item agreed to.

Pensions and National Health—Health branch—marine hospitals, including burial expenses of destitute deceased mariners and grants to institutions assisting sailors—further amount required, \$20,000.

Mr. STEWART: What is the explanation?

Mr. POWER: It is simply an under-estimation. I believe the committee is familiar with the sick mariners' fund. The moneys in the fund are contributed by vessels, chiefly larger ones, touching at Canadian ports. To a great extent the money is expended on fishermen along the coasts. Last year, owing to an increase in the activities of fishermen, there was an increase in the number of sick fishermen, and we had to find more money. The sick mariners' fund has always contributed far more to the consolidated revenue fund than it has withdrawn. There is still a credit in favour of that fund. In the present instance the amount required was underestimated.

Mr. STEWART: What was the vote to which this is supplementary?

Mr. POWER: It was \$163,000. I have the amounts expended during the past few years, and for the information of hon. members I shall place them on Hansard. In 1931-32 the expenditure was \$205,000; in 1932-33, \$158,000; in 1933-34, \$135,000; in 1934-35, \$152,000; and for the ten months in 1935-36, it was \$142,000. In the present instance we are asking for \$20,000 more, owing to the increased activity among fishermen.

Mr. NEILL: Is it the minister's intention to introduce at the present session legislation dealing with the situation which I brought to his attention and which concerns a disabled seaman? There was some trouble getting the proper treatment for him in hospital, as there are in Caanda only two hospitals in which he could be so treated—probably only one. The situation was that he should have been taken to Halifax, and as he happened to be in British Columbia this involved an extensive undertaking.

Mr. POWER: I remember the anomaly in the act pointed out by the hon. member. It seemed absurd that a mariner shipwrecked on the Pacific coast, in order to receive the benefits of treatment under the sick mariners' fund should have to be transported to Lunenburg. However, those are the regulations, and that is the law. My hon. friend may reply that the law is wrong, but I must say that it stands that way at the