

here, not as delegates, but to watch and consider the proceedings, and to discuss with the government and with the delegates representing the government matters of interest, in order that we may help one another and that the decisions arrived at may be the decisions not of the government alone but of the thinking men and women of Canada. We can act only through the government, and we hope that the government will accept, so far as it may be offered, the assistance of others, and make it possible for these representatives to speak through the government in the conference on matters which are of deep concern to them.

Mr. BENNETT: Notice has been sent to each of the premiers of the provinces, as I promised the right hon. leader of the opposition, asking them for any suggestions they might desire to make to the conference through the government, as well as to agricultural and other organized bodies in the state—not the manufacturers' association alone—for the purpose of having representations made.

Item agreed to.

To provide for the administration of the Royal Canadian mint, including salaries, contingencies, retiring and other allowances, and general expenses, \$182,400.

Mr. BOULANGER: May I ask the Minister of Finance why there is an increase in this vote?

Mr. RHODES: There is no real increase in this vote; as a matter of fact, there is a decrease. The apparent increase is due to the fact that we have recently taken over the mint.

Mr. BOULANGER: May I ask the minister if dominion notes are engraved at the mint?

Mr. RHODES: No, only coins.

Mr. BOULANGER: May I express the hope that some day the Minister of Finance will give us dominion notes and coins with the two languages that are spoken in Canada? Last year the Canadian government did something that was very flattering to our national pride when they took over the control of the mint from the government in London. I hope that they will do something equally flattering to our Canadian pride by putting the two official languages of this country on our dominion notes and on our coins so that they will proclaim to the four corners of the earth the name of Canada. At this late hour of the session, a few hours away from proroga-

tion, I am not going to go into a detailed expose of the reasons, historical, national and otherwise, which I could bring forward in support of my suggestion. Let me simply say this, that this move would be flattering not only to one-third of the Canadian population which speaks the French language, but also to the great majority of English-speaking Canadians who know the history of this country, and who know the contribution that French speaking Canada has made to our national life.

Mr. RHODES: I have only this observation to make, that the considerations which have moved my hon. friend in making his suggestion this evening must certainly have been apparent to him during the preceding six sessions he has sat in this house, and with the bright mind that he possesses I am surprised that it is only at this late date that he makes this suggestion. So far as the coins are concerned I think his suggestion has been fully met because our coins to-day are distinctly bilingual in character, in fact trilingual, because in addition to bearing words in both the French and English languages they carry a motto in Latin. Whether or not it is desirable to alter the character of our dominion notes is a matter which can well be considered as, if and when new designs are before the government for consideration.

Mr. BOULANGER: I hope the minister is not reproaching me for giving the government an opportunity to do a good deed.

Mr. RHODES: Certainly not.

Mr. LAVERGNE: There can be no reproach against me because twenty-eight years ago I asked in this house for this very thing. It could only be some very narrow prejudice that would operate against this reform, which is in accord with the letter and spirit of our constitution, as contained in section 133, clause 2, of the British North America Act. All acts of parliament must be printed in both languages, and I would point out that dominion bills and coins are acts of parliament as well as the legislative bills that we pass through this house. But there is something higher in this idea. I think it makes for national unity. If we intend to build up a Canadian confederation we cannot build it up by keeping one-third of the population in a reserve in the province of Quebec, and then stating that everything is satisfactory so long as the Indians of Quebec keep in the reserve which has been given to them. I understand to a certain extent the fears of those who feel that there should be only one language in this country, but they are at