

Interim Supply Bill

such as certain agricultural services; surveys and other activities of the Department of Mines and Resources, and certain public works projects including dredging and completion of contracts already under way.

The proposed procedure is the same as that followed each year with respect to interim supply; the passing of the bill to be founded on the resolution will not in any way prejudice the rights and privileges of members to criticize and discuss any item in the estimates which will come up for discussion at the next session, and as far as this government is concerned, the usual undertaking is hereby given that such rights and privileges will be respected and will not be curtailed or restricted in any way as a result of the passing of this measure.

The form of the bill differs from that passed at the beginning of the last fiscal year. At that time, on account of the short period covered, it was not necessary to ask for additional proportions on special services. At this time we are asking for five months' supply, and this involves additional proportions for certain specified services which are covered in sections 3 and 4 and supported by the schedules to the bill. The form of the present bill in this respect is the same as that followed in the past where such additional proportions were necessary.

In fact, I think it is usual in interim supply bills to secure a somewhat larger proportion for certain special services than the proportion asked for respecting the main estimates as a whole. Very often the Minister of Finance has come into the house and asked for one month's supply or two month's supply applying to all the main estimates, and then he might ask for an additional two month's supply for a few services. That is the case here. We are asking for five-twelfths applicable to all, and for a few services we are asking for an additional one-twelfth and for a few other services an additional one-sixth. These special amounts are not large in amount. The five-twelfth amounts to \$148,845,000.59; the additional one-twelfth amounts to \$437,749.83 and the additional one-sixth amounts to \$862,958.33.

Section 5 of the bill is new. It is to authorize the refunding of Dominion of Canada securities maturing or callable in the current year. At present the only authority available for refunding purposes is the Loan Act, 1944, of which only \$10,298,387.45 remains unborrowed and negotiable.

Mr. STIRLING: Am I right in believing that the five-twelfths plus the one-sixth plus the one-twelfth, plus the items that have been

[Mr. Ilesley.]

passed already, bear a distinct relation to the total estimates of over \$1,000,000,000? I should have thought that as we were proposing to vote five-twelfths of the amount required for the civil estimates there would be an exact relation between that sum and this total of \$1,023,621,597.

Mr. ILSLEY: A large number of items are statutory and do not have to be voted by the house. They are included in the main estimates simply for purposes of record and to provide a complete picture.

Mr. STIRLING: That would be a proportion of \$301,138,000?

Mr. ILSLEY: It is five-twelfths of the non-statutory items, which I presume is the figure the hon. gentleman has stated. Then the one-sixth and the one-twelfth would be in addition to that.

Mr. STIRLING: What about the items that were passed some weeks ago in committee of supply?

Mr. ILSLEY: Those were supplementary estimates for the fiscal year now passed, the fiscal year ended March 31, 1945.

Resolution reported and read the first time.

Mr. ILSLEY moved that the resolution be read the second time and concurred in.

Mr. POULIOT: Before this resolution is carried I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it would have been impossible to reach this stage of the proceedings on the eighteenth day of this session if you had not shown a spirit of justice and fairness to all members of this house. In 1940 I said to you that you were honouring the Chair and five years afterward it is my duty to say the same thing. Your difficulties have been great at certain times but you have shown wisdom and fairness; at all times you have followed the true parliamentary traditions of Westminster. Being Speaker during five years of war is a most strenuous task but you have accomplished that in a marvellous way. I cannot congratulate you, but I can tell you of my admiration and gratitude.

Motion agreed to, resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Bradette in the chair.

Mr. ILSLEY moved: