

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If my honourable friends want an hour, I will promise to clip only two or three minutes out of it.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I know it is not customary, but would it be improper to ask that the Deputy Minister or some other official of the Department be here to supply information which my honourable friend could not be expected to supply off-hand?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not know, but I shall make inquiries to ascertain who can supply the information asked for.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: The Department will know who is the proper official.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: That will be all right.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The Senate resumed at 8 o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The Senate resumed at 9.30 o'clock.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General, acquainting him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber at 10 p.m. for the purpose of proroguing the present session of Parliament.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 3

FIRST READING

Bill 347, an Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1931.

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable senators, I have in my hands a copy of the Bill, which has just been given the first reading, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1931. The total sum requested, based on the main estimates, is \$213,127,180.71.

Section 3 of the Bill reads:

3. From and out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund there may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding in the whole twenty-one million one hundred and one thousand nine hundred and forty-four dollars and seventy-five cents towards defraying the several charges and expenses of the public service, from the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and thirty, to the

thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one, not otherwise provided for, and set forth in Schedule B to this Act.

There is the following declaratory statement in section 4:

4. And whereas there remained on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and thirty, unborrowed and negotiable of the loans authorized by Parliament for the construction of public works and for general purposes, the following sum:—

For public works and general purposes, \$182,717,595.20.

And whereas it is necessary to make provision for retiring maturing loans raised for war or demobilization purposes and other maturing loans and obligations of Canada;

Therefore it is declared and enacted, that the Governor in Council may authorize the raising of the sum above mentioned as required for the purpose of retiring maturing loans raised for war or demobilization purposes and other maturing loans and obligations of Canada, and for public works and general purposes aforesaid, respectively, under the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, and the sum so raised shall form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, out of which like sums shall be applicable to the several purposes aforesaid, under the Acts and provisions thereunto relating respectively.

I have not examined in detail the items that make up the sums mentioned. They cover the whole of the activities of the Government of Canada, and have been closely scrutinized by the members of the popular Chamber. On the members of that Chamber lies the principal responsibility for the levying and expenditure of the amounts necessary to carry on the affairs of the country. I believe they have done their work in a very careful manner. No complaints of any extravagance have come to my attention, and I think the expenditures offer no reasonable ground for criticism by this House. I should like to quote the statement, which I noticed in the press, of a high authority whose duty it is to maintain special surveillance over the actions of the Government: that an examination of the supplementary estimates indicates the exercise of great care and restraint in their preparation, especially in view of the fact that they have been brought down on the eve of an election.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable senators, as the honourable leader of the Government has intimated, we in this House have not the right to initiate appropriations or expenditures. Our power is limited to the approval or rejection of Bills for these purposes that come to us from the other Chamber. Therefore our discussion on appropriation Bills usually occupies but a little time. As of course we would not exercise our power of