

confine their operations entirely to Dominion lands?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: They interest themselves in the preservation of all forests.

Mr. McKENZIE: In Nova Scotia it is the practice of lumbermen to take leases of large tracts of timber lands, from which they cut the best of the timber, leaving scattered throughout the woods the tops, limbs and other parts of the trees that they do not want. The result is that forest fires occur in different parts of the province, causing immense loss. These men should be compelled to clear away or burn the rubbish and brush that is left after they have finished cutting, or dispose of it in such a way as to guard against fires. In Nova Scotia I do not think that any person takes special interest in that sort of thing. The Conservation Commission might co-operate with the Government of Nova Scotia or with their own officials in that province with a view to averting this danger.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The Conservation Commission have no administrative power in such matters. The only authority that would have the power would be the provincial authority, which could make regulations in connection with the leases, such as are made in a number of provinces, requiring the cutting to be done in a particular way and the dangerous material to be cleared up.

Mr. OLIVER: The duties of this commission are educative and advisory, not administrative. In view of the results to the province of Alberta of their advice up to date, I would be willing to agree to even a greater cut in the Estimates than has already been made. If the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance should see fit to reduce the amount, I think the province of Alberta, at any rate, would submit with equanimity to the suggestion.

Cost of proceedings before the International Joint Commission, \$10,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Will this be expended?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think it probably will be. There are some important inquiries to be made, and the Government has to be represented sometimes by counsel and sometimes by experts.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think this is one of the most important courts in the country, because it has to deal with international questions arising between Canada and the

United States, and it has already settled some very important questions. The very fact that there is a tribunal of this character to which may be referred all disputes with regard to rights upon boundary waters, with regard to the erection of piers abutting on either one side or the other of boundary waters, with regard to the use of water for irrigation, and all those intricate questions which necessarily arise as to the use of waters having their origin on one side or other of the boundary line, and which are of such enormous importance, will go a long way towards preserving amicable relations between the United States and Canada. Therefore, I think that the court is a very important one, and everything ought to be done to make it thoroughly respected by the people of both countries, so that its judgments will carry weight with the people of both the United States and Canada. As Minister of Public Works in the late Government, I had a good deal to do with the formation of this court, as it came within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. My own idea, and, I am satisfied, this was the idea of the Government of which I was a member, was that the tribunal should consist of eminent lawyers who would devote their entire attention to the work of the Commission. We started in that way. The Canadian Government appointed three lawyers, and the United States Government appointed three lawyers also. I impressed upon the gentlemen appointed on behalf of Canada that they would be expected to give up their professional work and to devote their entire attention to the work of this international tribunal. As my right hon. friend knows, a change of Government took place shortly after the appointments had been made by the Canadian Government, but before they were actually ratified by the Imperial Government. New appointments were made and a departure was made from the idea which we had. One gentleman on the Board is a layman, a very excellent man indeed, but still one who has not had any experience or training which would enable him to determine legal questions. In matters relating to rights of irrigation, and, perhaps, many other questions, he would be valuable as an expert to be attached to the Commission. The United States Government, I believe, has followed the course which this Government has adopted, and has not been careful to appoint only lawyers of eminence to the Commission. Gentlemen of the Commission