

but it was not found that that university had on its list any specially distinguished professor in the lines of work which we require in the advisory council.

Mr. MARCIL: I am surprised to hear the hon. gentleman say that, because Laval is affiliated with all the colleges in Quebec. To be told that there was not a man to be found in that university fit to serve on a council like this is news to me.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My hon. friend should not put it that way. A great number of men in Canada are fit to serve on a body like this, but we want only a restricted number, and we try to get those who will best make up that restricted number. I am informed that Mr. Surveyer is a graduate of Laval.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Is that the lawyer?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Thank Heaven, this is one board that is able to get along without a lawyer.

Mr. MARCIL: Laval occupies an unique position in this country. It is the university that first had a Royal charter in Canada; it is representative of one class of the population. In undertaking a work such as my hon. friend is now undertaking, I assume that he desires the co-operation of all the elements of the population. Laval has produced many distinguished men; some of them are to-day in Quebec colleges—men of high standing. They may be found also in the Royal Society of Canada and in other learned bodies. I am sure that if the minister will give the matter consideration, he will come to the conclusion that it would be good policy to include in this body a representative of Laval University.

Mr. OLIVER: At the risk of incurring the unfavourable criticism of the minister—

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Do not be afraid of that.

Mr. OLIVER: —I take very much the same position as that taken by the member for Moosejaw (Mr. Knowles). I cannot help thinking that however meritorious this proposal may be or would be at any other time, this is not an appropriate time or occasion to introduce it. There is the foundation here of a large organization, involving the expenditure of a large amount of money—money that will be devoted more to organization than to the producing of results. At this time we cannot afford to spend money on anything but results. At a time when the requirements of the

[Sir George Foster.]

country are so immense, so urgent; when we are descending to the point of soliciting private help from individuals throughout the country for the carrying of our war burdens, we should not enter upon what the member for Moosejaw calls a nebulous scheme of scientific research. My hon. friend mentioned two matters that are of interest particularly to the prairie West. One is the discovery at Moosejaw of a method for the production of gas from straw. This is a matter of inventive genius; it is not in any way indebted to scientific research arrangements; it is not connected with this or any other similar proposal. My hon. friend now proposes to introduce a subsidiary matter in connection with that as an excuse for the establishment of this big organization. If he is desirous of carrying to success the extraction of various articles from the tar product of the gas, a small grant to the university of Saskatchewan will produce all the results in that particular that his proposed organization will produce. The same may be said with regard to the tar sand of the Athabaska. If my hon. friend is desirous of securing information that will lead to the utilization of the tar sand, a small grant to the university of Alberta would produce probably better results than would be produced under this organization that he proposes. The time is ill-judged for launching what will turn out to be a very expensive organization, whether it produces any results or not. The amount he asks for is not seriously large; it is the principle that I object to—the principle of introducing new expenditures and new causes for expenditure into the Budget at this time of stress and trial, when we are preaching, or assuming to preach, to the people the necessity of their saving in order that they may serve.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: A grant is proposed to be given in reference to the extraction of benzine and toluene from coal gas by means of absorbents for the purpose of accurately determining the quantity of these compounds. There is in the coal gas product in the various cities and towns of this continent a considerable quantity of these two compounds, particularly of the first. These go to waste at the present time; they are valuable, and a solution of the problem would be of incalculable benefit. A grant is to be given to the University of Manitoba under the charge of one of its professors; that is the very thing that my hon. friend thinks we