

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*

Since we are dealing with ships I must say that the *Hudson*, for which a contract of about \$7 million was awarded last year, is now under construction in the shipyard of the St. John Dry Dock Company, St. John, N.B., which was the lowest tenderer.

There were delays caused by a strike. I hope that it will be settled in the near future, if it is not already.

I am told that work has resumed. I see now that the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) is telling me that the work has resumed. I am very happy to know that, especially since the department, on account of the delay brought about the strike, could not have carried out the same plans next year, had the strike lasted.

This vessel will probably be completed by the end of 1962.

We already have the *Baffin*, one of the finest hydrographic ships that can be found anywhere in the world.

However, I believe that the *Hudson*, being a more modern vessel, will be even more efficient than the *Baffin*.

**Mr. Dumas:** I understood the minister to say this morning that the *Hudson* would be put into operation in 1962.

I should now like to know whether other vessels are under construction at the present time.

**Mr. Comtois:** We do not have any other vessel under construction, but we plan to replace three vessels—and ship designers are presently working on this project—which are not necessarily out of use, but which are not adequate any more for the growing needs of the department.

**Mr. Dumas:** And will these vessels be used for hydrographic purposes?

**Mr. Comtois:** Certainly.

(Text):

Item agreed to.

Geological survey of Canada—

218. Administration, operation and maintenance including Canada's share of the cost of the geological liaison office, British commonwealth scientific conference, London, England, and \$75,000 for grants in aid of geological research in Canadian universities, \$4,937,624.

(Translation):

**Mr. Dumas:** Mr. Chairman, on February 21, 1961, the minister had a news release published announcing that the federal and provincial governments were to undertake extended aeromagnetic work programs.

I understand these projects are to be spread over a number of years and their cost will be

[Mr. Comtois.]

shared by the federal and provincial governments.

I am told that \$12 million have been earmarked for such surveys in the provinces, and \$6 million in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Could the minister tell the committee what amount will be spent this year and how it will be divided as between the federal government and the provinces?

What is the amount the department expects to spend in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories?

**Mr. Comtois:** As far as these aeromagnetic projects are concerned, we have signed agreements with two provinces, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

We are going to spend \$300,000 in Ontario this year, on a sharing basis with the provincial government.

We have recently entered an agreement with Saskatchewan. As a matter of fact, it was yesterday I think that I put my signature to a document to be submitted to the minister of mines in Saskatchewan, Mr. Brockelbank. It provides for an expenditure of \$300,000 to be shared on an equal basis by the federal and the provincial governments.

In the Yukon, we are going to spend \$150,000 to this effect this year. Of course, the whole amount will be supported by the department, since there is no possibility of agreement with a non-existent province.

**Mr. Dumas:** And the Northwest Territories?

**Mr. Comtois:** That is for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

**Mr. Dumas:** Is the minister negotiating with other provinces in order to come to some agreement with regard to the carrying out of projects throughout the country, in all provinces concerned?

**Mr. Comtois:** I must say, Mr. Chairman, that all provinces where the pre-Cambrian is found have let us know that they favoured the project.

As a matter of fact, the province of Ontario is ready to provide a certain sum in its estimates, and so is Saskatchewan.

The other provinces which are interested in coming into the project assured us that next year, they would earmark the necessary amount of money for carrying out the program.

This year, there are two provinces, as well as the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Next year, we expect that other provinces will join the first group and take part in this project.