

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I have in mind a question that I wished to ask the minister some time ago, and I have been waiting with a good deal of patience for an opportunity. Before putting the question may I be permitted to associate myself with one phase of what has been said by a number of other hon. members in regard to the value of the work that might be done in relation to the problem of unemployment. It has been stated that in the construction of roads leading into and within parks—I had Jasper park in mind as one of the largest and least developed—an enormous amount of profitable work remains to be undertaken. From what we have found during the year and what we anticipate in the future, there will be great need for providing work for that unfortunate class of unemployed known as single men. Although they are useful men they seem to have no right on the earth in most plans for affording employment. As they are not married and have no dependents, we sometimes forget that they also must eat. I would make the suggestion—it is not a new one—that in connection with this work it would be a good plan, easily worked out, to establish a number of fairly sizable camps through that part of the country to which could be taken those transient single men whose condition of unemployment is such a tremendous problem to all the municipalities. As no municipality seems to be willing to aid them, a few thousands of those men, taken from the different provinces and centralized in such camps as I have suggested, would be provided for, and this would ensure a most necessary work being done.

The question I wish to ask is this: I notice in the estimate there is provision for taking care of indigents in the parks. Just what is the plan for expending that money? How much is expended? Does the federal government assume the entire responsibility for indigents within the parks, and does it invite indigents from any other part of the country to go there, or is there some stipulation as to residence?

Mr. MURPHY: Those indigents are cared for in a manner similar to that in which a municipality cares for its indigents. We do not encourage transients to come into the parks, nor do we let them starve if they do happen to be there. But we confine our relief measures as much as possible to those who are resident within the park areas. The relief is distributed through the park officials.

[Mr. J. A. Fraser.]

Mr. SPEAKMAN: The federal government assumes the full responsibility for indigents within the park areas?

Mr. MURPHY: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: About how much is expected to be spent out of this fund for this purpose, or has any estimate been made?

Mr. MURPHY: A few thousand dollars. It would be a relatively small amount, because some of the parks have no permanent population.

Mr. BROWN: When Mr. Smart came from Prince Albert last July to assume the position of superintendent of the Riding Mountain national park, from what point did he begin to administer the duties of his office?

Mr. MURPHY: As far as I am aware he came to the park. There is a building there which was formerly a forestry office and which is at present used as the administration building. When I took over the duties of this position, it was used by Mr. Smart as his residence.

Mr. BROWN: What staff has he?

Mr. MURPHY: I think an office staff of three. Then there are the park wardens. I am not just certain of the number—possibly ten or twelve.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Smart, then, did not for the time being administer the duties of his office from the town of Dauphin?

Mr. MURPHY: As far as I am aware, the area now known as the park was administered by the forestry officials and there was an office in the town of Dauphin. Mr. Smart, so far as I know, lived within the park itself in this building of which I have spoken, and he may have made use of the office in Dauphin. The Riding Mountain national park was created, I think, in December, 1929, and Mr. Smart came to that park in July, 1930.

Mr. BROWN: Is it not a fact, then, that he was moved from Dauphin to Neepawa? Is that statement correct or incorrect?

Mr. MURPHY: Mr. Smart, as I have already stated, to the best of my information took up his residence within the park itself.

Mr. BOWMAN: Mr. Smart did, in my opinion, operate the park from Dauphin, having his office in the forestry office in the post office building in that town. It is quite true he spent part of his time in the park and performed part of the administration work in the park. But as I understand it the