

general look at the water resource problem of Canada and taking the initiative in suggesting and co-ordinating studies so as to make an inventory and know just what our position is?

Mr. PATTERSON: To the extent which our resources permit we look at the whole broad picture and where there is an area that we feel is not adequately covered or is very far from adequately covered, we do take the initiative to put in a station there which is a sort of key station for that particular area. As local requirements or provincial requirements expand we may develop a network associated with such stations.

Mr. FULTON: What I have in mind though, is this is a huge area and a huge problem. What I would like to get at is, has there been any planning given to the question of a progressive study starting at area A, and then moving as your resources permit, because you cannot do it all at once? I am aware of that, so that within a foreseeable time we will have made a survey of the whole of Canada with respect to its water potential supplies, and with respect to potential requirements. So that, say, after ten years, or fifteen years, or whatever would be feasible to contemplate, we will have completed a nationwide study. Is there such a program?

Mr. PATTERSON: We are expanding the areas of coverage as rapidly as our resources in manpower and money will permit. The demands from provinces, from local areas, are currently so great that we cannot take an intensive program with respect to areas that will need to be covered in the future years. The federal government, of course, has a responsibility with respect to the territories and we are expanding our coverage in the territories.

Mr. FULTON: Would I be correct in saying then that that is being done at the moment in response to particular requests or demands or requirements and not on a planned basis, having as the objective that within a certain number of years we will have finished the whole of the territory of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. PATTERSON: Not entirely, sir, but we are in that position where the current demands in particular areas in the country do require urgent attention and do interfere with a planned program moving across the country in a set pattern.

Mr. FULTON: But I would be correct in saying that there is not in existence as a matter of policy a progressive plan for the survey of the water resources of Canada.

Mr. PATTERSON: Not in a geographic fashion of moving across. We are trying to pick out from our own point of view those areas where we feel that records will be most useful and will be required at the earliest date. We are co-ordinating that sort of a program while answering the requests of the provinces and the general development across the country.

Mr. FULTON: You would not be in a position to, or would you, to say now, at this point in time, that next year we propose to carry out such and such studies, and the year after that so many others, and so on. Are you in a position now at this point in time where you can say that by the end of three years we shall have completed certain other studies, and then know where you will move from there, or is it primarily—and I am not criticizing; I am just