

*Supply—Trade and Commerce*

**Mr. Charlton:** These elevators were built by the government, were they not?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Yes, but they are operated by the national harbours board which reports to the Department of Transport, and the poor Minister of Trade and Commerce cannot tell you much about them.

**Mr. Charlton:** That is true, and that is what I have just finished saying. They were built by the government and were operated by the national harbours board. But the minister said no.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** No.

**Mr. Charlton:** Well, his parliamentary assistant shook his head, which certainly means no.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The word you used was "rented".

**Mr. Charlton:** No.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Your question originally was, "What elevators are rented by the government?" or "What government elevators are rented?" My answer is that, so far as this department is concerned, one is rented. I think there are also other elevators operated by the national harbours board, and I said I was under the impression that some of those were rented.

**Mr. Castleden:** However, the minister's department does undertake the inspection of those elevators?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Yes.

**Mr. Castleden:** And the checking of them, irrespective of who operates them.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Yes.

**Mr. Castleden:** One elevator is leased; which one is that?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The elevator at Port Arthur.

**Mr. Castleden:** That is the McCabe elevator company?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Yes.

**Mr. Castleden:** What is the present state of the lease?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The lease was renewed at an increased rental about 18 months ago.

**Mr. Castleden:** For how long?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** For five years, with an option for another five years.

**Mr. Castleden:** At what rental?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** It is \$75,000 per year, plus a percentage of storage earnings.

[Mr. Howe (Port Arthur).]

**Mr. Castleden:** What is the capacity of the elevator?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Well, I designed it in 1913, and I believe it is 3,500,000 bushels.

**Mr. Castleden:** I understand the construction is quite good.

Item agreed to.

Canadian government elevators—

446. Operation and maintenance expenses, \$1,404,479.

**Mr. Fleming:** I note at page 542, in the details, there is an item which stands in fifth position from the top of the page which indicates a reduction in the amount for casuals and others from \$172,934 to \$106,180. And then about ten items farther down there is an increase in the item for repairs and upkeep of buildings and works from \$384,090 to \$435,300. Would the minister explain, in one case the reduction, and in the other the increase.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I think the estimate for casuals is based upon crop probabilities. The larger figure reflects the very heavy movement we had in 1953. Last year the movement was smaller and fewer casuals were required. Maintenance of course depends upon accruals of maintenance. That amount is an estimate of the amount of maintenance work expected to be done in that year.

**Mr. Fleming:** What was the actual expenditure in the last fiscal year for casuals and others? I note that the appropriation was \$172,934.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** That figure for casuals is in the salaries item, and I doubt if we could segregate it.

**Mr. Fleming:** For purposes of easier comparison, I am wondering if we might have the exact amount because, while there is an apparent reduction of \$66,000, we may well find that the department did not spend anything like the amount appropriated for the purpose last year.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** That may well be true. I think it probably is true. You see, the number of casuals required depends upon the nature of a crop movement. If it is a very heavy crop movement, more casuals are employed. We try to estimate a sum sufficient to take care of the actual casuals requirements. Sometimes we overestimate. If we underestimate we ask for more in our supplementary estimates.

**Mr. Nicholson:** The minister has had representations presented to him in connection with the building of a terminal