

(Mr. Baxter) pointed out, they have appointed fire marshals, who make a very searching inquiry into every fire that occurs in that province, in many instances there have been prosecutions, and in some cases convictions, following their activities. That I think is the greatest deterrent of fire that we can have in the shape of legislation, and it really is a work that should be done by the provinces, being a matter purely of civil rights. I suggest to the minister to strike out this vote.

Mr. ROBB: I would not like to strike it out now, but I am glad to have this criticism, because it is not far out, from my own observation, when it came before the Treasury board. I do not know Grove Smith. I only met him once in Vancouver just after the great fire in British Columbia. I recall that he had been sent up there to go into that matter and see if he could not stir up enthusiasm to have something done to prevent these fires.

Mr. HANSON: Then probably his work has been of some value. What is the minister's opinion as to the activities of the provincial governments in this matter? With the exception of certain portions of the country, these lands are owned by provincial governments and they are very much alive to the question of fire protection and have spent a good deal of money. I do not think there is the slightest criticism of these expenditures, provided the money is well expended, and I would suggest having this item eliminated.

Mr. ROBB: Not this trip.

Mr. BAXTER: This practice started in 1921, and the suggestion was that it was done by the predecessors of the present government.

Mr. ROBB: Oh, no.

Mr. BAXTER: I do not care about that, because I think they were capable of making mistakes, and I think perhaps this is one. If the present government does not make any more serious mistakes I do not object. But the minister will note every year there are millions of dollars worth of practically irreplaceable material in the natural resources of the country going up in smoke. The provinces that are interested in timber are doing a great deal. They have not been able—and perhaps no one ever will be—to cope successfully with this destruction by fire, but

[Mr. Hanson.]

this amount of money is too small to save even the dwelling houses or the timber. It would be far better to turn this money into another channel, put more with it and do something to save our natural resources. In other words if we are spending the money, spend enough to do some good.

Item agreed to.

To provide for the expenses of a technical investigation under the supervision of the Department of Insurance into the merits of the various forms of roof coverings from the standpoint of fire protection, \$8,000.

Mr. HANSON: I thought the last vote covered this.

Mr. ROBB: No. The last item was to provide for watching this matter for the department. This work is carried on in the laboratory in McGill University under the direction of Professor French, Mr. Mackay and Mr. Johnson. Mr. J. Grove Smith is the link between the department and this work.

Mr. BAXTER: I suppose the first vote we passed was to pay for the man who held the match and scratched it, and this is to pay the man who looked at the result. As a matter of commonsense, can it be contended that it takes more than two successive 9 p.m. years to find out about every roof covering we have in this country, and that it costs \$8,000 odd to find out what will burn and what will not burn. I sympathize with the minister. He has had this thing loaded upon him. It is part of the precedent, and he can never get rid of it.

Mr. ROBB: I think this will be the last year.

Mr. BAXTER: I hope it will be.

Mr. ROBB: I am sure it will be.

Mr. HANSON: How many years has this vote been running?

Mr. ROBB: The record I have does not go back any further than the previous year, when the amount was \$8,500. It is down to \$8,000 now. This is only the second year for this grant.

Item agreed to.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

Immigration, contingencies and general expenses, including grants to immigration and colonization societies or associations as may be authorized by the Governor in Council, \$1,350,000.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I move that vote 63 for immigration contingencies be reduced by \$70,000.