

Mr. HARKNESS: I am extremely pleased to learn from the minister's statement that the income of the Indians from these water power developments will be so largely increased. I should like to join with the hon. member for Calgary West in urging that the money so received be used immediately to purchase the agricultural land so urgently needed by the Stony Indian band. I would point out that they have no land upon which they can grow a vegetable crop which they can be sure of harvesting. As a matter of fact they have harvested, I understand, only two crops of potatoes in the last twenty years, which gives some idea of their very serious plight as far as agricultural land is concerned. Do the moneys of which the minister speaks include payments to the Indians for the power line which runs across the reserve, and which, I understand, they were, at one time at least, to get a separate settlement for?

Mr. GLEN: I am informed that that was covered by the cash payments which were made to the Indians many years ago.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: How long has that power site development been going on there?

Mr. GLEN: The beginning was in 1909. There were others in 1914 and 1929.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I see that some development has been going on there since. Why are the payments made retroactive to 1935 rather than, say, 1930?

Mr. GLEN: The matter was the subject of a good deal of contention with the power company at that time, and when the proposals were made for the licences to be issued and the new agreement to be completed it was felt that they had been pretty hard in fixing the amounts which should be paid, and the departmental officials were satisfied that they had made a good bargain as far as the Indians were concerned.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I am not much of a judge of power rates. We do not worry about our rates in Alberta. The city of Calgary has a power plant of its own, operated with coal; it is not a stand-by plant. If you live where we do, and have coal all around you and underneath you, it will pretty well take care of the rates being charged by a power company. What I was anxious to say to the minister or to the staff who made this financial arrangement is that I think they are very greatly to be complimented upon having settled this matter in the very satisfactory way they have for the benefit of this Indian tribe.

Section agreed to.

[Mr. Glen.]

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3—final licences.

Mr. HARKNESS: Paragraph (e) on page 7 of the bill states that as and from October 1, 1930 all sums payable for the use or occupation of land under the terms of the interim licence of January 17, 1929, shall belong to and be payable to the province. Did the Stony Indians get any benefit from that part of their lands covered by the water of the Ghost dam, apart from payments they have already received, or will this particular clause cut them out of payments in the future?

Mr. GLEN: This is an amount of \$500 per annum that goes to the province for the use of the water bed in respect of the Ghost site only.

Section agreed to.

On schedule I.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Was there any consultation between the department and the Indian tribe on the reserve at the time the agreement was arrived at?

Mr. GLEN: Is the hon. member referring to this particular agreement?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Yes.

Mr. GLEN: At the time they surrendered the land there was consultation with them. This land was in the dominion for the benefit of the Indians, but no consultation was had with them with respect to this particular agreement.

Schedule agreed to.

Schedule II agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF RECONSTRUCTION

308. Departmental administration, including expenses incidental to organization, \$1,500,000.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. Departmental administration, \$136,035.

Mr. FAIR: I wish to thank the Minister of Agriculture for getting a bit closer to us in the chamber. We farmers hope that he will get a little closer—and I mean closer—in sympathy before these estimates are disposed of.