

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

(Text):

I understand it is a question of security and the minister is satisfied that the department cannot very well permit an increase in the permissible load on trucks transporting explosives.

Mr. Comtois: That is right.

Mr. Dumas: I understand that, and we know that the question of security is very important. However, in my district there are long distances to be travelled and I suggest that in order to make it economical special permits should sometimes be granted. However, I am not going to insist on that. As the minister has said, if a province feels that something should be done it can get in touch with the department and ask that the permissible load be increased.

Mr. Comtois: I should say that certain provinces would like the federal government to continue to control security. Other provinces, like the province of Alberta, would like to pass an act giving them authority over this matter. Alberta has contested the validity of the federal act regarding this matter. As you can see, Mr. Chairman, this is a very delicate problem, but the initiative so far as amendments are concerned should come from the provinces and there should be some co-operation or understanding between the provinces and the federal government.

Mr. Aiken: I should like to ask the minister two questions on this subject. First, has there been any change in the policy since the affairs of the department were examined by the standing committee on mines, forests and waters some two years ago? Second, is there any authority in the act to grant a special permit in special cases or is the limit absolute?

Mr. Comtois: The answer to the first question is that there has been no change. As far as the second question is concerned, we can amend the regulations provided sound reasons and facts are presented to us for doing so. The regulations can be amended at any time if serious reasons are advanced that justify doing so.

Item agreed to.

Surveys and mapping branch—

207. Branch administration including a grant of \$1,000 to the Canadian institute of surveying and photogrammetry, \$171,588.

Mr. Herridge: This item has to do with surveys and mapping. Because of the increased traffic of pleasure craft and tugs for towing on the Columbia river between the international boundary and Revelstoke and because of the number of boats that have lost propellers or have become stranded on

sand bars, particularly between Arrowhead and Revelstoke and in the narrows between the upper and lower Arrow lakes, I suggested some three years ago that it would be a good idea for the department to draw up a simple chart that could be sold to persons at the customs office at Trail for \$1 to cover the cost so that they would have a chart to use in proceeding in Canadian waters as far north as Revelstoke. At the time the minister informed me that his department was very busy but that they would give the matter consideration.

I urge the minister to see what can be done in that connection because this traffic is increasing very rapidly. Such boats now come from Portland and the mouth of the Columbia. They are transported around Grand Coulee and Bonneville dams on low beds. To indicate the extent of the traffic, may I point out that 27 of these pleasure craft called at my son-in-law's home over one week end last year and over 100 came by during that period. The local people know the waters but quite a number of these boat owners run into minor difficulties because of their lack of knowledge of the channels and so on.

Mr. Comtois: I will certainly look into the matter and give the hon. member some information privately as soon as I can.

Item agreed to.

208. Geodetic survey of Canada, \$935,434.

(Translation):

Mr. Dumas: With regard to the geodetic surveys carried out under the supervision of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, could the minister tell the committee how many teams and men will be employed in the summer of 1961?

Mr. Comtois: Mr. Chairman, in the year 1961-1962, nine groups will be employed at triangulation work, four at astronomy and basic lines, and five at accuracy surveying work.

In all, the geodetic service includes 79 persons.

(Text):

Canadian hydrographic service—

212. Administration, operation and maintenance including Canada's fee for membership in the international hydrographic bureau, \$5,370,081.

(Translation):

Mr. Dumas: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure whether the minister told us this morning that a new ship, the *Maxwell*, was in operation at present or would be during the summer.

Mr. Comtois: I believe that we will have this ship in operation at the end of the season. It is now being built. We hope it will be ready to operate in the fall.