

Supply—Interior

Town planning work transferred from Conservation Commission August 1st, last.	10,160
New park area-Vidal's Point on shore of lake Katepwa near Indian Head.	2,670

The balance is made up of small amounts required for maintenance of roads, streets, public buildings, recreational facilities, etc., which are exceptionally high because during the war, the parks appropriations were reduced to \$300,000 for two years, and \$349,670 for two years, which were not sufficient to provide adequately for the general maintenance work in the parks. The total number of visitors to all the parks last year was approximately 160,000, about 60,000 of whom were foreigners. Allowing an average expenditure of \$300 for each foreign visitor, this represents over \$18,000,000 brought into the country, in return for which we sent practically nothing out. Capitalizing this revenue on the basis of a 5 per cent dividend, it means that the national parks are worth to-day \$360,000,000 to the people of Canada, and their value is increasing yearly. This does not take into account what they are worth as playgrounds to Canadians themselves. The country's return was about twenty times our expenditure, and it must be remembered a good deal of this was spent on new road construction forming an investment on capital account that will bring in its own revenue in the near future. Anyone who has visited the Banff park will realize its immense value from the point of view of the tourists who visit it as well as of the residents of the country who go there. The Windermere road, which we hope to complete this year, will make a connecting link that will bring the tourists from the international boundary north of Calgary, through the Banff park, on to the lakes in British Columbia, and, returning, either by way of the coast or back through the Crow's Nest pass. This is a portion of the work that we have been asked to complete, notwithstanding the fact we may find ourselves short of money; for it will bring to Canada a great number of people who otherwise might not come here. With respect to the Jasper park, and to the other parks that are on the National system of railways, I think they should be developed in order that we can encourage traffic upon our own railways and get a return for these investments. I believe I am safe in asserting that if these playgrounds along our National railways are developed even to the extent that the Banff park is developed

[Mr. Charles Stewart.]

to-day, it will mean a very considerable addition to the earnings of these railways. I am strongly in favour of developing those playgrounds.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I understood the minister to say that the increase of \$166,500 represented the three Governor General's warrants which were issued last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Why are they in the estimates of this year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): They are in the estimates; I was simply pointing out that the estimate of last year, plus the Governor General's warrants, equalled the estimate of this year.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is what I thought the minister meant. He is asking for the same amount as was necessary last year.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Were the warrants exactly this amount? I do not think so.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The officials inform me the warrants were: \$100,000, \$50,000 and \$16,500. I may say that I know something of the necessity for the last warrant—namely, the unemployment situation was taken into consideration in connection with the construction of the Banff-Windermere road and on that account construction was continued after the appropriation was exhausted.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That was one of the major factors in determining the Government to press on with that work? I listened with pleasure indeed to the minister's defence of the expenditure in connection with these parks. I can remember well when that same duty devolved on me, when I was not treated with quite the same consideration across the floor, when I was told that this expenditure was merely catering to the rich and was really not for the good of the country at all; and in my humble way I had to defend it and say that our parks were an asset for the whole country in that they brought money into Canada. I can remember as well having to adduce figures in an endeavour to show that we really obtained as much profit per acre from the rocks and mountains of our parks as from the wheat fields of Alberta. That, perhaps, would not amount to very much now because I have been taught to believe by hon. gentlemen to my left that there is no profit per acre on the wheat fields. Anyway if the one source of revenue fails let