

Supply—Legislation

but a week or two after the session was prorogued we had an unbound copy of the index, prepared by Miss Kearns and another lady who was very competent, and the index was useful and complete.

Now, what is the use of having *Hansard* when we do not have a proper index? I do not think the index for the last session has been published as yet; I know I do not have a copy of it. What is the use of having this big book when we do not have an index? I made protests in the house on many occasions previously, and finally I obtained the famous index; but I had to be grouchy and unpleasant and I had to complain frequently in order to obtain it. I wonder if I will have to start again to make the bureaucrats move and induce them to complete the index and release it to us at the earliest possible opportunity?

It is a long time since the last session concluded and there is no excuse for not having the index prepared. I do not care about the bound copy, but I want a good copy, an index which will be as complete and useful as it was when Miss Kearns and her competent assistant were in charge of it. I do not ask the minister to answer this question now but I wish to put it on the record, and I shall complain again about the undue delay in delivering the index to the members. There is no excuse for that at all.

Mr. Knowles: I think there is one point which should be kept clear, and that is that there are two committees that seem to be involved here. The hon. member for Temiscouata made reference to the committee on debates of which he is a member, and I recall a report of that committee which was concurred in by the house. But the committee to which the Minister of Finance and I referred was the committee on printing. The chairman at the time was Mr. Emmerson, and I believe it is that committee which would deal with a matter of this kind. As for the index to *Hansard*, if the hon. member for Temiscouata is chairman of the debates committee perhaps he could call it into session.

Mr. Pouliot: I am no longer chairman.

Mr. Thatcher: While we are discussing the cost of the printing of *Hansard* I would like to point out a practice which the house adopts more and more, that of attaching appendices at the end of *Hansard* from time to time. Sometimes the information contained in the appendices is necessary, but frequently it is easily available elsewhere. I do not think we should give unanimous consent to the printing of appendices. After all it costs a good many hundred dollars to

[Mr. Pouliot.]

print one page of *Hansard*. I would suggest to the minister that in future if information is available elsewhere by the simple process of looking it up, we should not consent to having these appendices and other things printed at the end of *Hansard*.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

Mines branch—

539. To provide for payments to McGill University in connection with the development of a coal-fired gas turbine—further amount required, \$50,000.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): Before item 539 is passed I would like to say a word or two about it. I notice in the estimates that again this year we are going to provide \$50,000 for the experiment with the coal-fired gas turbine. I would like to know what practical progress we have made in the development of that turbine. I remember that two or three years ago when the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys was speaking on this item concerning this particular machine he told us it was going to be one of the major items in the solution of our coal mining difficulties. We had pointed out to him that the coal mining industry of Canada was finding itself in a bad way, and he told us at that time that a little squeeze might do the industry good, if I recall the term. He thought the squeeze would do the industry good and that in time it would survive. Unfortunately, however, it has not been surviving.

The minister pointed out as a bright spot in the future the development of this coal-fired gas turbine, and said that within a few years it would assist in the rescue of our fast-fading coal mines. I wonder if the minister could tell us at this time what progress has been made in the development of this machine and how long it will be before we can expect substantial results so the waning coal industry in this country will receive some little benefit from it?

Mr. Harris: Mr. Chairman, I regret to say that I can make no forecast as to how long it might be. I can only say that when the treasury board were engaged in considering these estimates some weeks ago we considered the progress that had been made and the recommendations which were presented by various people who in our opinion were competent to know. They recommended that this vote be continued and the work of this experiment be continued. We accepted that recommendation on the basis that these people felt that real progress was being made.

One could hardly expect that a particular experiment would in fact solve all the problems of the coal mining industry. Indeed, we