

Supply—Resources and Development

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Drew: I am simply asking where this payment is made. I ask that because it is important that we know through which channels these things are handled.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): Recently there was an outbreak of poliomyelitis among the Eskimo and it is thought that these germs were brought down the Mackenzie river—

Mr. Drew: They are not brought by telegraph.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo):—by white men. No doubt they originated with troops from the southern states who were brought up to build the highway and airport.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): They are brought by telephone.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): Probably some money was spent on telephone communications by the government in order to get doctors and nurses to help the Eskimo. The Eskimo is a law-abiding decent little sort of man, although he may be slightly unusual in his marital relations according to our beliefs. However, he is a citizen of Canada and is entitled to just as much consideration as anybody else. I think this money is being well spent on hospitals, doctors, nurses and schoolteachers.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): We were told a minute ago that we should stay on the item, but could we get further away from the item than this?

Mr. Drew: This is not a single item, nor is it a case of the concern that hon. members of this house may have for the Eskimo. I do not think there is any doubt that everyone here is anxious to see them cared for. This item of telephones and telegrams is repeated under the various headings, and in this case I am simply asking where this is paid and to whom.

Mr. Winters: As I said before, this is paid to the Department of Transport for the dispatch of messages by radio telephone and by ground wires which deal with the administration of the Arctic areas, including messages to and from vessels other than the *C. D. Howe*.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Is that a vessel?

Mr. Hodgson: At the bottom of page 254 there is an item of \$30,000 for acquisition of equipment. Last year this item was only \$400 and I think there should be some explanation.

Mr. Winters: This item of \$30,000 is to cover miscellaneous small items required by officials of the eastern Arctic patrol, and

[Mr. Drew.]

includes the purchase of two 16 mm. film projectors; handicrafts; home economics; manual training; athletics; musical instruction; school equipment for the new school at Coppermine; school equipment for the new school at Pond Inlet; school equipment for another new school at Iglookik; equipment for seasonal schools, nursing stations, and additional equipment for five schools already established; it also includes six radios; six record players; fifteen film strip projectors; furnishings for three teachers' residences.

Mr. Hodgson: Those are all new projects this year?

Mr. Winters: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Engineering and construction service—

380. Engineering and construction services, \$500,000.

Mr. McLure: Is this construction work carried on in the national parks? A lot of surveying and engineering work was done in connection with a bridge in the national park from Rustico harbour to Robinson's harbour, and then a roadway to the other end of Robinson's island with another bridge connecting with Covehead. I have not been able to get very much information with reference to this matter from the minister and I should like to know whether the surveying of this bridge has been completed and when construction of the bridge will start.

Mr. Winters: This is still a matter of discussion. The survey has not yet been made.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Public accounts show that on March 31, 1949, there were 99 employees in this division. The estimates show that in 1949-50 there were 122 employees, and for 1950-51 the number is increased to 141. The cost has gone up from \$304,000 in 1948-49 to \$411,000 in 1949-50 to \$500,000 for the current year. I think we should have an explanation when there is such a large increase in a vote like this.

Mr. Winters: For the period of years to which the hon. member referred there has been a considerable increase in the amount of work undertaken by these engineers. The figures I have show that for 1939-40 there was an amount of \$1,896,456, with an engineering staff of 54. In 1949-50 this amount had increased to \$10,176,778 with a staff of 122.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): I do not think the minister understood me. I stated that according to the public accounts on March 31, 1949, only a year ago, there were