

Canada Lands Surveys Act

Mr. Prudham: Mr. Chairman, I have not the statistics of the actual number of dominion land surveyors at the present time. I have a list of the candidates for the last five years, which will give some indication of the number who are coming in. In 1951 there were 61 candidates; in 1952, 53; in 1953, 115; in 1954, 87; and in 1955, 93.

Since the resources were returned to the provinces the provinces have qualified their own surveyors under a corporation, or whatever happens to be the recognized authority in the provinces. However, we do conduct the surveys on Indian lands and on other crown lands.

Mr. Green: Even in the provinces?

Mr. Prudham: Even in the provinces, although it is not essential. We can use a provincial surveyor to do that work. In the Northwest Territories the dominion land surveyors are the recognized authority for the surveying and the registering of the surveys. For that reason, we know it is necessary to have this system of qualifying dominion land surveyors until such time as the territory might become a province or more than one province and set up its own authority.

The standard of qualifications for dominion land surveyors is very high. I believe that the various provincial corporations relate their qualifications to the standard set by the dominion land surveyor authority. At the present time we have great difficulty in maintaining a sufficiently large staff to do the work required. I am not sure of the figure; I think we have only about 18 on our staff at the present time, and they are spread out over a vast area. There is no doubt that we have a backlog of work.

During the last year we endeavoured to recruit some additional surveyors for our staff. Out of 500 letters sent out we had only one recruit. It is a problem that we face in other branches of our work, to be able to induce people to work for the rate of pay that obtains in the government when private industry is willing to pay enough money to get the people they need. Perhaps that answers my hon. friend's questions. If I have missed any I shall be glad to answer them later.

Mr. Green: I have just one further question. Can a provincial land surveyor do survey work in the Northwest Territories or in the Yukon?

Mr. Prudham: No; it is required to be done by a dominion land surveyor under the act.

Mr. Pearkes: Does the same board of examiners conduct examinations for hydrographic surveyors?

Mr. Prudham: No; they conduct examinations for the topographical surveyors. The hydrographic surveys do not come under dominion land surveyors. They have a different type of work. I am not sure that there is any association that controls their standards other than our department. We do all the hydrographic work, and the work has to be up to the high standards that have been set by tradition. We inherited that from the British navy originally and we still use some of their old charts and we endeavour to keep up the high standards; but I am not able to say whether there is any examination for hydrographers. I can get that information in about two minutes by referring to the official gallery.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I have a question more for the purpose of obtaining information than anything else. Do the engineers in the minister's department do work other than surveying in the national parks? What I have in mind is this. Do they do the surveying and the engineering for the location of bridges in the national park? Do they do soil testing and that sort of thing having to do with putting a bridge in a certain place?

Mr. Prudham: No.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): That would come under the Department of Public Works?

Mr. Prudham: Public works.

Mr. Herridge: I have one question, for information, naturally. Are there many land surveyors in private practice who want to qualify as dominion land surveyors?

Mr. Prudham: Oh, yes. I think the best evidence of that is the number of candidates we have every year. While we have only 18 or 20 on our own staff, we have had over 115 trying the examinations. That does not mean they all pass. It is rather a stiff examination, but I think I can get that information if my hon. friend is really interested in the number who qualify each year. I shall get that information and send it to him.

Mr. Herridge: What is the probable advantage to a land surveyor in private practice in obtaining his dominion land surveyor's certificate?

Mr. Prudham: Well, as I understand it, there is only one university in Canada that gives a diploma in surveying.

Mr. Green: Which one is that?

Mr. Prudham: Laval. My colleague, the Minister of Public Works, disputes that. That