

Supply—Agriculture

Special Surveys and Investigations—Con.

N.B. 27, College bridge marsh	48,000.00
N.B. 28, Upper Coverdale marsh	9,000.00
N.B. 30, Calkins marsh	16,000.00
N.B. 33, West Coverdale marsh	42,000.00
N.B. 37, Sackville marsh	25,000.00
N.B. 41, Turtle creek marsh	5,000.00
N.B. 42, Jones marsh	14,000.00
N.B. 43, Creek's marsh	11,000.00
N.B. 45, Chartersville marsh	43,000.00
N.B. 46, Wilson marsh	24,000.00
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	\$1,022,000.00

Mr. Nowlan: There is definite engineering work in progress with respect to the dam, is there not?

Mr. Gardiner: There is definite work being done.

Mr. Nowlan: Has the minister any idea when that will be completed so he will be able to arrive at a decision?

Mr. Gardiner: It cannot be completed this year; it will run into next year.

Mr. McLure: What work is being done in Prince Edward Island in connection with this vote?

Mr. Gardiner: The work on the Johnston river was completed at a total expenditure of \$19,325.66.

Mr. McLure: Anything further this year?

Mr. Gardiner: The province still has the drainage to do and will be making any further expenditures that are made. Our expenditures are completed.

Item agreed to.

50. Assiniboine river—diking and cut-off, \$50,000.

Mr. Weir: This work is being done in an effort to control the flooding of the Assiniboine river. Incidentally this is linked with the observations made by the hon. member for Greenwood in connection with flood protection work in the city of Winnipeg. The Assiniboine river drains a very large area. I am not going to try to put all the details on record at the present time, but such rivers as the White Sand river, the Shell river, the Qu'Appelle river rising away in Saskatchewan, the Birdtail river, the Minnedosa river and the Souris river all flow into the Assiniboine. Those waters are all concentrated at Winnipeg where they join the Red river.

Heretofore this river has been considered a navigable stream and for that reason under the jurisdiction of the federal government. What is being attempted here is to prevent it getting out of bounds and flooding the country. I am keeping in mind what the hon. member for Greenwood said a couple of weeks ago. If this river should break out of its south bank with extensive flooding and

meet the La Salle, and then go down through the Brunkild country to meet the Red above Winnipeg; if it got out of control it would aggravate extensively the flood condition that might apply to the city of Winnipeg. That is why we are so anxious and interested in having some measure of control on this river.

We are waiting at the present time for the survey that was instituted by the international joint commission having in mind the possibility of diverting this river across to the lake. I do not know whether that is feasible, but I would like to ask the minister whether any surveys have been made on the other rivers, some of which I have mentioned, which are further upstream from the Assiniboine. Have some control works or dams been built there which would relieve to some extent the flood hazards in the narrow channel where this river flows through the flat country toward Winnipeg?

This particular vote is earmarked for diking and cut-off. This cut-off is an innovation and some people have a question mark in their minds about it. This river is quite crooked and in order to overcome some of the hazards of flooding, particularly to stop the jamming of ice, attempts have been made to cut off the bends and thereby enable the water to run away a little more freely. It has worked quite well in most cases.

The project which was undertaken last year in co-operation with the municipality of Portage la Prairie proved most useful and has worked exceptionally well. I might go even farther and say that the acquiring of the necessary land was undertaken by the municipality, and I think the whole thing will work out quite well. Unfortunately the proposals for this year so far have not been so encouraging. The \$50,000 in this vote has been considered by the municipalities concerned, and I think they are going to use most of it for diking purposes. They still have other worthy projects in mind that would help to alleviate this situation; and I hope when the minister gets his program more under way he will see his way clear to give further assistance in this regard.

Mr. Bryce: I am glad to join with the hon. member for Portage-Neepawa in what he has said about this river because after it leaves his constituency it runs into mine. I think the hon. member is to be congratulated upon the work he has done in this connection. He was able to get the engineers and the different municipalities together, along with myself. Now that the minister has been good enough to provide for this