

listed in the Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1959, relating to the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys; and Items numbered 217 and 218 of the Main Estimates 1958-59 relating to the Dominion Coal Board.

2. Your Committee held 4 meetings on the Order of Reference of the House concerning the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, and 4 meetings concerning the estimates of the Dominion Coal Board.

3. Your Committee heard a full statement by the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys on the duties and responsibilities of his department and of himself as its Minister.

4. The study of the estimates of the department indicated to the Committee that the work of the department consists of technical and research investigations connected with resources basic to the future development of the country's economy. To a varying degree, this department contributes information essential to the planning and development in all phases of the national economy.

5. The Surveys and Mapping Branch provides the topographical information and base maps essential to all phases of our expanding economy. Rapid development during the last decade has severely overtaxed the mapping facilities of the department. In this connection new accommodation, now in the construction stage, and increased staff, should help to relieve the pressure. This branch is faced also with steadily increasing demands for navigational charts and other information on the continental shelves and the adjacent portions of the oceans. This problem is being met, in part at least, by an expanding effort. This trend must be continued so that Canada can meet her rapidly expanding navigational requirements off our coasts and in the Arctic.

6. It was apparent to your Committee that the Geological Survey of Canada is doing an efficient job; it has 77 parties in the field. Evidence submitted indicates that, at the present rate of activity, decades would pass before satisfactory geological maps of the pioneering areas of Canada would be completed. It would be unfortunate if this effort cannot be accelerated so that much-needed geological information can be provided at an earlier date. The Committee was pleased to note that the Geological Survey of Canada will soon occupy new accommodation which will allow a more intensive research effort. The Committee was also gratified that the Geological Survey expects to undertake more research on ground water resources. The scarcity of information on sources of ground water supply is already of grave concern in many parts of Canada.

7. The Mines Branch continues to play an important role in the development of our great wealth of minerals. The branch can be credited with much of the success achieved by Canada's uranium industry. It gives valuable assistance and advice to all parts of the mineral industry. Greater competition in world markets for the products of the mines has intensified the need for greater efficiency at lower costs to the industry. The requests for help to provide cheaper methods of production continue to increase the demands on the facilities of the branch. Here too, better equipment, increased staff, and new accommodation which will be ready in the near future, should help to meet the needs.

8. The Committee was interested to learn of the Minister's intention to expand the Geographical Branch into a program of study on land use. It appeared to the Committee that such information is required to plan the