

taken into consideration the advisability of demonstrating, not in the forest reserves, but out on the open prairie, what can be done in tree planting, and so encouraging the farmers to plant trees, because I am quite sure that in that direction lies the salvation of those areas to a great extent? It might be worth while for the department to start a plantation, to be extended from time to time, that would act as a shelter belt, and where the settlers might go for the purpose of securing young trees for use on their farms.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That work has been carried on in all the years that I have been in the Northwest. Trees are supplied to farmers for planting on prairie farms in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The species distributed are mainly Manitoba maple, elm, ash, cottonwood, Russian poplar, and willow. Some spruce, tamarack and pine are also distributed for which a small fee is charged. The reports of the inspectors show that these plantations have a high average of success. There are two nurseries for the purpose. One was established at Indian Head in 1903 and one at Sutherland in 1912. The increased demand for trees made necessary the increase of accommodation for furnishing the supply. The new nursery is now supplying trees for distribution and this supply is largely increasing as the nursery develops. The number of trees distributed in 1921 was 4,083,975 to 3,603 applicants. The average number of trees sent to each applicant was 1,092.

Mr. COOTE: I am quite aware that this work has been carried on, but the minister has possibly not quite grasped what I was driving at in regard to those plantations out on the bald prairies. What I suggest, and what in my humble opinion would be of very great value to the settlers there, would be a demonstration on those drought-stricken areas of what can actually be done. These settlers are in such condition financially that it is almost impossible for them to experiment in tree planting, and if any area could be set aside there for demonstration of what could be

10 p.m. accomplished in the way of tree growing, the results should be of great benefit to the settlers. It was brought out in the course of the discussion that these settlers might ultimately have to move out to other parts of the province.

Item agreed to.

67½

For surveys and investigations of water and power resources, and for administration of water-powers, etc., \$367,000.

Mr. HODGINS: In view of the possible taking over by the provinces of their natural resources, could this item not be reduced?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Agreements have been entered into between the Water Powers branch and the various provincial governments for surveys of this character. All provinces, therefore, irrespective of whether or not the natural resources go back to them, are receiving service of this character.

Item agreed to.

Reclamation of Dominion lands by drainage (including revote of \$69,000), \$217,000.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Would the minister explain this item?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): This is a matter in which I have been interested for some time and which I discussed with the department when I was provincial premier. Arrangements were made with the federal department by the western provinces with respect to reclamation, and on assuming office I found that one project under way had not been completed; the vote this year is for its completion. It is not the intention of the department to carry on any further surveys in this connection; it is believed that the work can be done more advantageously by the provinces themselves. Where Dominion lands are affected we are prepared to enter into agreements to turn those lands over to the provinces or to individuals whom the provinces may suggest as proper persons to be entrusted with drainage projects.

Item agreed to.

Canadian National parks, \$966,500.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is a substantial increase in this item. Would the minister be kind enough to explain it?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The apparent increase of \$166,500 is not an increase when the three Governor General's warrants, granted in August, October, and November last, totalling \$166,500, are taken into account. The increase of \$166,500 over the original vote last year, is due mainly to:

Banff Windermere road.	\$81,000
Fencing additional area in Elk Island Park to provide sufficient pasture for the increasing number of buffalo. . .	16,000
Edith Cavell road, Jasper park. . .	10,000