

Supply—Resources and Development

Mr. Adamson: Are the herds of reindeer which support the Eskimos now self-supporting?

Mr. Winters: Some of the herds are self-supporting and some are not. A great deal of attention has been given to that, as my hon. friend knows. Suitable Eskimos have been picked out and put in charge of reindeer herds, to take care of them and do what they can by way of protecting them.

Mr. Adamson: Are the herds increasing, and is the experiment a success?

Mr. Winters: The answer is yes.

Mr. Harkness: I see here an item for hospitalization, professional and other special services. Do I understand that this department looks after the hospitalization and medical care of Eskimos?

Mr. Winters: The hospital expense shown here is for indigent whites and half-breed patients in hospital.

Mr. Harkness: The minister's department has no responsibility for the hospitalization and medical care of Eskimos?

Mr. Winters: That is correct.

Mr. Harkness: That comes under the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Winters: That is right.

Mr. Hodgson: While last year there was no expenditure for temporary assistance, the amount this year is \$24,285, and a further amount of \$1,100 for casuals. Will the minister explain that, please?

Mr. Winters: The temporary assistance is largely for welfare teachers, grade III. There are listed six welfare teachers.

Mr. Hodgson: Is that something new this year?

Mr. Winters: Yes; the rest is for labourers.

Mr. Hodgson: The expenditure for supplies and materials has increased from \$5,000 to \$41,500; can the minister explain that?

Mr. Winters: The expenditures are as follows:

Direct relief to indigent whites, Eskimos, and those of mixed blood living in the Arctic area, Northwest Territories.....	\$25,000
Fuel for heating school and teachers' residences	10,000
Food for noon-day lunches for about 400 Eskimo school children	2,500
Films, rations for teachers, miscellaneous items	4,000
	\$41,500

Mr. Drew: Where do they use telephones and telegraphs up there?

Mr. Winters: It is a matter of communication, wireless messages to and fro.

Mr. Drew: From where?

Mr. Winters: Mostly from Ottawa.

Mr. Drew: If they were wireless messages they would be sent from the government stations as a direct operation.

Mr. Winters: I am told that if we use the facilities of the Department of Transport we pay their operating tolls; if we use the facilities of the Department of National Defence we are able to send the communications free of charge to the department.

Mr. Drew: Do you pay for that here?

Mr. Winters: We pay the tolls charged by the Department of Transport out of this vote.

Mr. Drew: It was explained to us yesterday by the Minister of Finance that all departments are now paid through the Department of Finance.

Mr. Winters: The fact of the matter is that this amount is required for telegraphic communications to the area concerned.

Mr. Applewhaite: Under the heading of northern administration this committee has passed without the slightest hesitation or criticism items totalling approximately \$5 million, but we now have some petty little sum of \$300,000 to be spent for the benefit of our Eskimo population and it is being picked to pieces. I trust sincerely that neither the minister nor the government will assume from that that this country begrudges the small amount we are now expending upon the Eskimo population and which in my opinion might well be increased without in any way over-pampering the Eskimo.

Mr. Hodgson: It has been doubled in one year.

Mr. Drew: Having heard this—I hesitate to use the term “claptrap”—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Applewhaite: I rise on a question of privilege. I am not certain whether the word “claptrap” is parliamentary but assuming that it is not I am willing to consider where it comes from and let it go at that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Drew: We have the trained seals again. Let us come back to the item. This is the kind of item that should be explained, not from the point of view of taking care of the Eskimo, about whom other hon. members are just as concerned as the hon. member who has just made these utterly inane remarks—