

Mr. MARSH: I should like to hark back to what the minister said a moment ago about the effect of sun spots upon radio reception. If research along these lines has been started, I would suggest that it be continued; if it has not been started, it should be instituted as soon as possible. If we are going to wait for the sun to stop having spots we may have to wait quite a little while. The cycle of maximum sun spots is eleven and one-third years, but the maximum is not reached in any one year. The years 1935, 1936 and 1937 saw increasing sun spot disturbances, and it is claimed that the peak will be reached during this year. The years that follow, 1939, 1940 and 1941, will show these spots on the down grade, but there will still be an appreciable number of sun spots visible, and therefore plenty of radio and magnetic disturbance. This will be so if the research work carried on for the last fifty years by astronomers is correct, and I think it is. Research work is being carried on in the United States and in Europe, but I think something should be done here in its relationship to radio reception. While Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, I do not know whether the Minister of Transport with all his fine ability can prevail upon it successfully to stop having sun spots. In any case, this is a problem that will have to be met.

Mr. HOWE: We have tackled the problem in another way. Sun spots interfere only with long distance reception and we are bringing in such excellent local programs over the CBC that all necessary entertainment can be obtained from the local station.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Last summer two petitions were presented to me in connection with radio interference, and I went into Calgary to see the radio man, I believe his name is Mr. Ainsley. He received me courteously and sent a trouble man to my district on three different occasions. This man, whose name was Mr. Stunden, was a very fine fellow. We went around and we found twenty-two electrical appliances that were faulty; they did not have the necessary filter condensers to overcome radio interference. The owners of these appliances were informed that they were causing radio interference and were asked to have them fixed. This man told me how in another town he had asked a man to fix up some electrical apparatus and he replied that he would not do it. That was all there was to it. He told me he would return to my town in a couple of weeks to see what had been done. When he returned we went around and we found that only one out of the twenty-two had decided

to put in a condenser; the others had made no attempt whatever to get rid of the radio interference. He then told me that they had no power whatever to make anyone correct an apparatus or appliance which might be causing interference, and asked me to put before the department the conditions under which they were working. I do not think these men should have to make more than one trip. I was informed that at times they have to make as many as three trips in an effort to have interference eliminated. People who are causing interference should be informed and then if it is not eliminated, something should be done. These officials should be able to apply some sort of force.

Mr. HOWE: We are a very patient department, but sometimes our patience may be exhausted. We may drop in and fine these people. If we do I hope the hon. member will not come around to get the fines remitted.

Mr. TUSTIN: Would these fifteen inspectors include district inspectors?

Mr. HOWE: The men listed here are engaged in this particular service. There is a district service under the Radiotelegraph Act.

Mr. TUSTIN: Are the district inspectors qualified to clear up electrical interference?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. TUSTIN: I have always found the inspectors very courteous and more than anxious to do their work, but it seems to me that they have too much work to do. My constituents have advised me that it has taken from six weeks to three months to have an inspector come around to make an inspection. Once the inspector arrived on the job he was able to clear up a large amount of interference. It would seem that these inspectors have too much territory to cover or too much work to do when six weeks to three months elapse before a complaint can be attended to.

Mr. HOWE: All services in the department are practically the same. If we could double the vote we could get better results, but we have to balance a reasonable expenditure with the results obtainable. We know that our staff works quite hard, but we think we are achieving a measure of success.

Mr. TUSTIN: Then the minister will admit that the department is understaffed so far as inspectors are concerned.