

Supply—Northern Affairs

provincial governments with the idea of establishing provincial parks in those provinces where there are none?

Mr. Lesage: My attention is drawn to one recent case where we sent somebody to Newfoundland to help the authorities there to set up a provincial park in Newfoundland.

Mr. MacLean: I notice that this department engages in hatching fish, as does the Department of Fisheries. It seems to me that might be duplication. Has any system been worked out whereby that type of work might be done for the department by the Department of Fisheries? I also notice that the department employs weather observers. The Department of Transport is the largest employer of weather forecasters and observers. Has any effort been made by the minister's department to borrow such observers from the Department of Transport rather than the department hiring such people?

Mr. Lesage: So far as fish hatcheries are concerned, I visited the hatchery at Banff, and I understand that the fish kept there are trout. Maybe there are other kinds. I am not an expert on fish, but I saw beautiful trout there and I realized that they were not for commercial fishing purposes but for sport fishing, which is quite different from the operations of the Department of Fisheries.

Mr. MacLean: Perhaps even more beautiful trout are hatched in a hatchery in my riding and I do not think it is operated by the minister's department; I think it is operated by the Department of Fisheries.

Mr. Lesage: You are very lucky.

Mr. MacLean: It aroused my curiosity to notice in the list of employees of the department that there is a sailmaker. What does he do?

Mr. Lesage: I did not hear what the hon. member said.

Mr. MacLean: A sailmaker is employed by the department. I was curious about his duties.

Mr. Lesage: He repairs tents and canvas for construction camps in the parks. There is no position of this kind, this year.

Mr. Dinsdale: I have a question with respect to traffic regulations in the parks. As the minister knows, Manitoba highway No. 10 passes through Riding Mountain national park. About a year ago, I believe, a bus service was established between the southern part of the province and Flin Flon. I understand that a trip charge is made for buses moving through the park and also that the

matter is under consideration. Has there been any change? It is not a heavily populated route at all. The passenger revenue is rather small and as a result the situation is rather awkward.

Mr. Lesage: This is not a main highway but a park highway. There is an alternative route to Flin Flon, which is the provincial highway. I understand that the road through the park is shorter and that is why many of these buses follow that route. But we must not forget that these roads are built for park purposes out of moneys that come from the general taxes of Canada and not from gasoline taxes collected by the provinces for the building of roads. There is a nominal charge, the revenue from which represents a very small amount of the cost of the building of that road which should be preserved for park purposes, especially when there is an alternative highway by which to go to Flin Flon and northern Manitoba. We do not prevent the use of it, but if somebody uses it he has to pay the entrance fee to the park in the same way as anybody else. Incidentally, it is a very small fee.

Mr. Dinsdale: I think the purpose of the service is to serve points other than those located on the roundabout route to the north. The service was put into operation by request as a convenience to the people of the northern part of the province.

Mr. Lesage: That does not change the principle.

Mr. Dinsdale: I take it that the basis is still the same. The matter is not under consideration at all?

Mr. Lesage: No.

Mr. Knight: Is there any timber being cut in national parks anywhere in Canada with the exception of such timber as is required for the administration of the parks? Is there any such thing as timber berths being granted to commercial lumbermen or lumber companies in the parks?

Mr. Lesage: Generally there is some timber cut for use in the parks, but with respect to Riding Mountain park—the hon. member for Dauphin is quite aware of this—some cutting by settlers is allowed under permit from us. However this is done according to well known forest management regulations. In Wood Buffalo park we allow some timber cutting by Eldorado Mining and Refining company but the company of course pays the regular dues for it.