

Northern Affairs and National Resources

laboratories in Ottawa and Vancouver. We have five field forest research stations across Canada. I can speak of them only from memory. There is one at Petawawa and one at Valcartier, as well as three others. That is the kind of research we carry on. We are also working very closely with the national research council and the defence research board on Arctic research.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—*Crown lands*.

Mr. Adamson: This section deals with crown lands and their development. Most of the crown lands that the minister will be administering—

Mr. Lesage: Not development; management.

Mr. Adamson: The minister will be managing them because they are crown lands. Will he be responsible for crown lands in the Yukon?

Mr. Lesage: Yes. In the Yukon and the Northwest Territories crown lands are a federal responsibility.

Mr. Adamson: Going on from there, my point is simply that in many cases crown lands that are heavily timbered form the catch basin, watershed or reservoir of the potential hydroelectric development. Before the timber is disposed of in any way to anybody I hope the greatest of care will be taken to see that the timber in the catch basin or reservoir area is not cut to such an extent as to bring about erosion of the peaks of the coast range. I mention that because precipitation along the coast range is among the highest anywhere in the world. It is caused by the Japan current; and if the forest cover is removed the possibilities of the hydroelectric development may be destroyed because of erosion of the land once such cover has been removed.

I mention this because I know it has happened in other parts of the world. I have seen a development where it did happen, and I hope that no disposal of timber on such crown lands will be made until there has been a complete study as to the effect of such disposal on the erosion of the reservoir area from the point of view of hydroelectric development.

Mr. Herridge: There is a small area of forest in my constituency which is held for the crown by the federal government. I think it was left to the government by an old English gentleman who retired to England and gave the federal government the land as an expression of his appreciation for having had the opportunity to live in Kootenay West for a good many years of his life. What

[Mr. Lesage.]

does the department do with a tract of land like that? Although it has been in the possession of the department for many years, nothing has happened.

Mr. Lesage: It is very difficult to deal with a specific case on a general bill such as is now before us. If the hon. member wants to give me the lot number and all the details I will certainly be delighted to look into the matter and provide him with all the information he desires.

Section agreed to.

Sections 9 to 13 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Speaker: When shall this bill be read the third time?

Mr. Abbott: Now, by leave.

Mr. Lesage moved the third reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time.

Mr. Lesage moved that the bill do now pass and that the title be as on the order paper.

Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, in the course of the discussion in committee yesterday afternoon there was a bit of noise in the chamber and we in this group could not tell whether or not clause 5 had been passed. I wanted to say a word with respect to subsection (b), but I did not have the opportunity for the reason I have explained. Therefore that must be the basis of my excuse for delaying the house for a moment now.

I wish to refer to the human resources of the northern country, and particularly the Eskimos. There have been many black spots in the dealings of the white man with the native people indigenous to new territory, particularly in the matter of the more valuable natural resources. I think I should relate that to what I am going to say about the Eskimo. In our own country of course the history of the fur traders and the methods by which they exploited the native population are known to every school child, particularly with regard to giving the natives a purely nominal price for their products and trading to them little things that were more ornamental than useful. I might say that cheap whisky was a favourite item.

However, probably the greatest sin we have perpetrated on the native peoples has been, with the best intentions in the world to help them, to interfere with their natural way of life. They follow certain ways which are sometimes vital to their health and to their well-being and existence. That is certainly so in the case I am going to cite. I am glad