

I believe in Canada we take our mounted police force too much for granted, and we do not thoroughly appreciate them. The letter continues:

I had hoped I would be able to make the trip again this year, but our programme does not permit. Therefore, I am taking the liberty of mailing you the enclosed cheque for \$100, which is to go toward your war relief fund as my part in helping Canada and its citizens in this great task. This is part of the money which I would have spent on my vacation in Canada, and I hope it will be used for the best and most needed purpose.

There are many things I could say about your country and people. In closing I wish to state that I hope I will be able to visit Canada again in the future when time and business conditions permit.

A letter like that certainly bears out the judgment of the minister in connection with the spending of money on the Banff-Jasper road, and on the Big Bend highway.

For some little time I have been endeavouring to find out the policy of the government respecting interned men in Canada. If it should become the government's policy to make those men work, I would respectfully call the attention of the committee to the fact that at the present time there is no western outlet to Jasper park. The road is completed from Kamloops to Blue river, but the stretch to Jasper is not completed. If those interned men are to be made work, I suggest that those in British Columbia might assist in building that North Thompson road from Blue river to Jasper. There might be some justification for the government's doing this.

I understand, of course, that the building of roads in any province is a provincial matter. At the same time, however, I believe it is within the jurisdiction of the minister to build roads to or through national parks. That being so, in the event of the government deciding to use those men, they might be put to the building of that road. In my opinion it would be money well spent, and would give a western outlet to Jasper park. The people who now come in from the east or from the south up to Calgary, from there to Banff and then to Jasper have no western outlet. They have to go back over the road they have already travelled. This road would also provide a means of getting into Jasper park from the west.

Item agreed to.

Lands, parks and forests branch.

147. General administration, operation and maintenance of services, including Wood buffalo park, \$268,334.

Mr. JAQUES: Why were all the animals slaughtered in Wainwright park?

Mr. CRERAR: We would proceed more rapidly if the hon. member would ask his question under vote 156.

Item agreed to.

Lands, parks and forests branch.

151. General scientific, economic and administrative services, \$118,440.

Mr. MacNICOL: Is it under this item that certain areas are being replanted with trees?

Mr. CRERAR: Very little replanting or reforestation is being carried on by the department. The moneys in this vote are to take care of scientific studies of Canadian forests and as to the best conditions under which the growth of trees occurs. There are further studies respecting the uses to which wood can be put.

Mr. MacNICOL: Is any branch of the department looking after reforestation?

Mr. CRERAR: No; that work is not carried on directly by ourselves. A good deal of work of that kind is being carried on by the various provincial governments, who of course own the forests.

Item agreed to.

Lands, parks and forests branch.

155. Land registry—land registry, seed grain collections, administration of ordnance, admiralty and public lands, \$57,263.

Mr. MacNICOL: What does this cover?

Mr. CRERAR: The descriptive heading gives a general indication of the purpose of the vote. For instance, the Department of Mines and Resources has maintained a central office of records respecting lands owned or otherwise controlled by the dominion government. We have the administration of ordnance and admiralty lands which are not directly under the control of the Department of National Defence. There is also the administration of timber and grazing on soldier settlement charged lands and on military reserves. There is also the matter of seed grain collections, to which reference was made in the house the other day. A great many years ago advances were made for the purchase of seed grain and fodder in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and from time to time efforts have been made to collect these sums. In many instances the provinces were equally responsible with the federal government for the advances. Boards were set up to investigate these claims, and upon completion of the investigations the claims were either confirmed, written off or compromise settlements made with the debtors.

Item agreed to.