

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: A year ago last June.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The minister has stated that among the salaries there is one of \$10,000 to Dr. MacCallum. What other salaries are paid out of the \$43,000?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Dr. MacCallum, the administrative chairman, is the only salaried one of the advisory council. We have a secretary of the council who is an officer of the Department of the Interior. This gentleman has offered his services free of charge to the advisory council this year as secretary, and he is carrying out that work excellently. He divides his time between his duties in the Interior Department and his duties for the council, working particularly in the evenings for the council. I refer to Mr. Challies, who is a most valuable secretary at this juncture. He is thoroughly conversant with the water-power system of the Dominion, and his knowledge of this and cognate subjects has been of great assistance. Outside of that we pay no salaries except for the clerical and stenographic help that is required. I think I can say to the committee that probably the most important work now being carried out is the issuing of sets of questionnaires to the colleges and universities, to the scientific societies and associations, and to the industrial establishments of the country, to ascertain the facilities and resources for research which now exist, and by whom and to what extent they are being utilized. Going out into the wider fields of industry to get this information from the industries, we ask: what are the problems which meet you in the development of your industry, whether it is some operation in connection with steel, or gas, or water-power, or any of the many problems that come up. It is desired to get a tabulation of all that information. All these questionnaires have been sent out but, as I explained the other day, the sending out of the questionnaires will not be the only means adopted to obtain the information desired. The Mining Institute, the Manufacturers' Association, the Chemical Association and other societies have volunteered their own personal work in seeing that a question, as it is directed to any establishment, shall be understood and answered. They have perfected their organization and they have engaged in actively supervising and facilitating the collection of that information, from 500 to 600 persons. All this work is done voluntarily and out

of the good will of these societies, the whole of it being destined to bring that basis of information in a collated form in which it can be made the groundwork for subsequent action. When these answers come in and the advisory council find what these problems are, they analyse the problems by means of their various committees. They select those of them which they consider the most important for solution and they, having the knowledge of, the facilities, and the resources for investigation, distribute each problem to the resources of research which is working along that particular line. Another important investigation which they are supervising at the present time has reference to the tar sands of the West which have already been under investigation by the western universities. This investigation will be aided to a certain extent from this vote.

Mr. MURPHY: Do I understand the minister to say that Mr. Challies, or his work, will be assisted out of this vote?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I said that Mr. Challies was anxious to do what he could in this way and that he had offered his services for a year during the war period free of charge.

Mr. KNOWLES: The item of "special problems" seems to be nebulous for me to give my support to. Anything in the world can be included in it and the minister's remarks have left me in a more nebulous condition mentally than when I first glanced at the item. The people's money is very precious now-a-days. This money has to be taken from the people and it seems to me that the special problem that everybody has to deal with now is to know where to get the money to pay the taxes rather than to increase the taxes by an artificial expenditure on an academic matter called the solving of special problems. If you are going to solve the problems of this country it will take a great deal more money than the sum that the minister has placed before the committee. I would think that the greatest problems now confronting this country are the servant girl problem, the bi-lingual problem, and the conscription problem. Why should we toy with the people's money in an era of high prices by undertaking investigation and research work into such purely academic and nebulous matters as are described here as special problems? All levity aside, the most pressing problem with which this country is now confronted and one to which this money might well

4 p.m.