

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): That has nothing to do with the item. We want to deal with the items as they are.

Mr. GREEN: With all due deference, Mr. Chairman, the item deals with the Alaska highway and the Canol project.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Yes.

Mr. GREEN: One goes through the Yukon and the other through northern British Columbia and the Yukon. Certainly they are economic developments. The committee to which I referred was a joint committee of the two nations appointed for the purpose of recommending what economic developments would be undertaken. Since that committee was appointed, both these projects have been undertaken. I have asked the minister whether or not there have been any recommendations with regard to the projects, and I submit I am in order.

Mr. CRERAR: I can answer, briefly. This was a joint committee. I believe that in the initial stages it was expected a joint report would be prepared. I understand now that it is exchanging information, and that each section of the committee is going to report to its own government. As yet the Canadian section has not reported to the Canadian government.

Mr. GREEN: There has been no report from it at all?

Mr. CRERAR: Not yet.

Mr. GREEN: Although it has been appointed for more than three years.

Mr. CRERAR: It is not three years, is it?

Mr. GREEN: June 20, 1941.

Mr. CRERAR: Well, no report has come in yet.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I wish to join with those who have already spoken, to express the desire of this group to see this territory developed. I believe we have made it quite clear that our chief concern is to see that this rich area is developed. To-day it is practically the only area containing vast sources of natural wealth which has not been handed over, in one form or another, to large monopolistic interests. I am not going to continue this discussion any further. I should like to say something about the statement made by the hon. member for Davenport, but his riding adjoins my own and I have no doubt that we shall have ample opportunity to exchange views on this subject.

I wish to endorse what has been said by the leader of the opposition and the hon. member for Vancouver South regarding the

profit that may accrue to the Canadian people from what has been done in the northern areas of Russia. I was delighted to hear the minister say that his department has already given consideration to those developments and studies which have been carried on by our allies. I should like to ask him if from the study his department has made he has found that that country has given any corporation comparable with Imperial Oil the exclusive right to explore 2,000,000 acres of their oil fields?

Mr. CRERAR: No. I confess that my studies have not proceeded to that point, but I would think it most unlikely that Russia had done so. Up to the present time Russia has carried on under a different political philosophy from that obtaining in Canada, one that is probably more in accord with the views of my hon. friend. I do not know upon what basis Russia has developed her north country.

Item agreed to.

Dominion forest service—internment and prisoners of war operations, \$52,800.

Mr. GREEN: Will the minister explain this item and tell us the approximate number of prisoners of war and internees being used in these forest operations, and the type of work they are doing? Will he tell us also whether any attempt is being made to segregate the nazis from the anti-nazis?

Mr. CRERAR: I do not know that I am in position to give my hon. friend the number of prisoners of war working in any particular camp.

Mr. GREEN: I did not ask for those in any particular camp; I wanted the number at work.

Mr. CRERAR: I think I can go as far as saying that last year there were 44,062 man-days. I cannot tell my hon. friend where that work was performed or the number of men who were working at any particular time.

Mr. GREEN: Has any attempt been made to segregate the nazis from the anti-nazis?

Mr. CRERAR: That matter would be under the Department of National Defence; it would have nothing to do with this vote. These people are in the custody of the Department of National Defence, but the cost of supervision is covered by this vote. Trucks are required, and tools and other equipment to enable them to do the work, and that is all charged against this vote. The information in regard to the number should be secured from the Department of National Defence.