

Yukon Act

\$56,569; education, \$177,224; public works, \$39,447; health and public welfare, \$238,476; municipal administration, \$79,374; game and publicity, \$18,270; general and unforeseen, \$10,051; department of roads and bridges, \$484,025.

Section agreed to.

Section 3 agreed to.

On section 4—*Administration of the government.*

Mr. Knowles: Can the minister state where the line is drawn between instructions given to the commissioner by the governor in council and instructions given to the commissioner by the minister?

Mr. Winters: In practice the instructions given by the minister would be those having to do with administration, and not normally having to do with fundamental questions of policy. If there are policy decisions to be made, they are normally referred to the commissioner by the governor in council.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—*Appointment of administrator.*

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Does "absence" mean absence from the territory?

Mr. Winters: Yes.

Section agreed to.

Section 6 agreed to.

On section 7—*Salaries.*

Mr. Low: What is the present salary of the commissioner?

Mr. Winters: The salary of the commissioner is approximately \$6,000.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Reference is made to the salary of the commissioner and of the administrator. If the position of administrator is to be temporary, should he be paid compensation or remuneration rather than salary?

Mr. Winters: If there is an administrator he would be paid a salary. During the time I have been responsible for the administration of the Yukon it has not been necessary to appoint an administrator.

Mr. MacInnis: What was the purpose of making provision for an administrator? Is it contemplated that at some time the commissioner and council might be superseded by an administrator appointed by the governor in council?

Mr. Winters: The provision is made in the event of absence from the territory for any

reason of the commissioner, in which event the government would be under the direction of the administrator.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—*Seat of government.*

Mr. Black (Cumberland): Where is the present seat of government for the territory?

Mr. Winters: The present seat is at Whitehorse.

Mr. Follwell: Is there any reason to expect that it may be changed from time to time?

Mr. Winters: There may be reason to change the seat of government, although I would not say it might be necessary from time to time. As hon. members know, for many years the seat of government was at Dawson, which was the centre of activities following the gold rush of 1898. At one time Dawson was one of the largest cities in Canada. Its population has receded until there are now only a few hundred people. On the other hand Whitehorse has grown markedly in population. Being on the Alaska highway it is the centre of communication and much more accessible. The administration of the Yukon can be carried out much more expeditiously, efficiently and economically from Whitehorse than from Dawson. Several years ago it was decided to move the administrative headquarters from Dawson to Whitehorse, and that move was made recently.

Mr. Graydon: Whitehorse is where George and Martha Black live.

Section agreed to.

Sections 9, 10 and 11 agreed to.

On section 12—*Sittings separate from commissioner; sanction of bills.*

Mr. Knowles: I note that a change is being made in the wording of this section and I wonder if that indicates a change in practice. Perhaps I can get my point over by asking a question. Does the commissioner in practice assent automatically to bills passed by the council in the way the governor general and lieutenant governors assent to federal and provincial legislation, or does he exercise the prerogative of veto on instructions from the minister?

Mr. Winters: Under the existing legislation the commissioner has the power of veto, but we think he should not have that power, that that should be reserved to the governor in council. The change is being made accordingly in this bill. In my experience there has been no occasion on which he has exercised the power of veto.