

Supply—Northern Affairs

minister's statement was reported this afternoon, it would be unfortunate. It would be just another pin prick in the relations between the two countries at a time when we do not want that kind of thing. Therefore, I hope the minister, before we pass this particular item of his estimates, will clear up that point.

Mr. Hardie: In my opinion, the minister's statement has not added anything new to what has been said. Apparently, however, there is a new tactic on the government side. This afternoon I asked the minister a number of times if he had received reports from his officials in the field in regard to Garry lake. He said: "No, I have not received any reports." He had never heard of them. No official had reported to him. There was nothing in his department. They had no reports. Tonight, he brings in the hidden document.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I shall have to take exception to that statement, Mr. Chairman. I said no such thing and the record will bear me out.

Mr. Hardie: I asked for this report all afternoon and got nothing. Then this evening the minister reads this report into the record and accuses me of blaming someone. I still say that the evidence he brought in tonight proves what I said before, that there was no contact between December 10 and March 22.

Then, in so far as the figures on construction are concerned that he put on the record, I want to say I went through the estimates yesterday, this very large sheet which is provided in the back of the book of estimates. I am going to quote from two of the items: Construction or acquisition of buildings; in 1954-55, \$4,157,459; 1955-56, \$9,473,946; 1956-57, \$17,685,834; 1957-58, \$27,342,007—it is \$10 million more than the year before; this year, \$30,971,179, which is \$3 million over last year and last year was \$10 million over the year before. Then, in the item of repairs and upkeep we find the same sort of story. The next item is equipment and construction and in 1954-55 the expenditure was \$1,966,215; in 1955-56 it was down to \$909,180, but in 1956-57 it was up to \$1,544,515, an increase of \$600,000. In 1957-58 there was another increase to \$1,700,606 and this year the amount is \$2,792,731. These are the figures I took from the estimates. These are the only figures available to me or to other members of the house. The figures I quoted this afternoon were based on what was shown in the main and supplementary estimates for each year.

Item agreed to.

268. To provide for contributions to the provinces, pursuant to agreements entered into or to be entered into, with the approval of the Governor in Council, by Canada with the provinces, of amounts equal to one-half of the amounts confirmed by the provinces as having been spent by them for camp ground and picnic area developments, \$1,000,000.

Mr. Tucker: Mr. Chairman, last spring the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, with the co-operation of the department of mines and resources of the province of Newfoundland, established a few campground and picnic sites in the vicinity of Newfoundland highways. These sites have proved to be very successful and have had a double effect. In the first place, they have given badly needed employment. Secondly, they have provided badly needed campground and picnic sites which are becoming very important and necessary along our highways. I believe that this was the first time that such a development took place and on behalf of those concerned I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources for this work. I trust that this is only the beginning and I hope that the minister will see his way clear to extend this program.

Item agreed to.

National parks branch—

269. Branch administration, \$143,105.

(Translation):

Mr. Pigeon: I shall be brief, Mr. Chairman. In the federal riding of Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, there is an historic site of national importance, located in the town of St-Lin-des-Laurentides. This site is the direct responsibility of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. As I said, it is at St-Lin-des-Laurentides, and meant as a tribute to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, our great autonomist prime minister who was born there. The monument was erected some years ago. At the entrance and exit of St-Lin, four signs had been put up which read: "Laurier's birth-place", in English only.

They had been there for several years. When I took up the matter with the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Hamilton), he personally went over to St-Lin-des-Laurentides to visit this historical site and to correct this omission. A few days later, his department informed me that the signs would be changed bearing new fully bilingual escutcheons.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder why the previous government refused to respect the memory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier—who was bilingual himself—and did not want to respect the