

Supply—Northern Affairs

Northern administration and lands branch—
320. Branch administration, \$124,626.

Mr. Lesage: The work is not yet under way because we only received the plans and specifications from the province on March 8 last and we have studied them. We have asked for more information from the government of Ontario and we expect to receive it soon.

Item agreed to.

Engineering and architectural division—

319. To provide for general investigations by the Northwest Territories power commission of the electric power requirements of settlements and industries in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory, \$1,000.

Mr. Trainor: I note on page 391 there is an appropriation amounting to \$21,160 for work by the Red river basin investigation commission and it appears that this is not being renewed. May we take it that that means that the work of this commission has been completed? If so, are the recommendations contained in this report to be implemented in the near future? I should also like to know whether this commission has held any public hearings, because I understand that there is some controversy over its findings. I wonder whether any opportunity has been given for the presentation of the opinions of those who did not agree with the findings?

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman, what item are we on?

The Deputy Chairman: Item 319.

Mr. Trainor: The matter has to do with appropriations that are not required for 1954-55.

Mr. Lesage: I came to this department in September, 1953. If my memory serves me right, it was about at that time that the report was received with regard to the Red river. It was handed to the department and to the province of Manitoba, but it was understood that the matter would be referred to the Minister of Public Works so that he could consider what works, if any, would have to be undertaken. With the transfer to the Department of Public Works of the report on the Red river investigation, this department no longer has any jurisdiction over the report.

Mr. Trainor: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that answer is quite good enough for the citizens of Winnipeg.

Mr. Lesage: I think the hon. member could ask his question of the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Trainor: The citizens of Winnipeg want some assurance that the 1950 flood is not going to be repeated. They want some assurance that measures are being taken to prevent a repetition of that flood.

Item agreed to.

Mr. Simmons: As I understand it, this item covers the cost of the Ottawa head office administration of the Yukon and of the Northwest Territories. It is rather difficult to figure out how much of this cost is for the Yukon and how much is for the Northwest Territories. However, there is one point I should like to bring out and that is that this item not only covers the cost of head office administration on federal matters for the two northern territories but also includes the cost of head office administration of the territorial government of the Northwest Territories and it does not include the cost of the territorial head office administration of the Yukon Territory. It seems to me that the reason for this is that the government of the Northwest Territories, on the territorial level, is carried out mostly by federal employees who are paid by the federal government and there is practically no territorial civil service, whereas the government of Yukon Territory, on the territorial level, is carried out by Yukon territorial civil service who are paid by the Yukon territorial government. For instance, this item we are now discussing covers the cost of a considerable staff in Ottawa who perform the clerical and accounting work for the Northwest Territories territorial government. Similar work for the Yukon Territory is done at Whitehorse and in the Yukon Territory by employees on the staff of the Yukon territorial civil service who are paid by the Yukon territorial government from money taken out of the pockets of the residents of the Yukon Territory.

In addition, the federal government pays the school teachers' salaries and the cost of running the schools in the Northwest Territories, except in Yellowknife, whereas in the Yukon the school teachers' salaries and the cost of running the schools are paid by the taxpayers of the Yukon Territory. We have the same thing, I understand, for game protection. Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to complain of these things but I would ask the minister and the hon. members of this committee to bear them in mind when considering the provision of funds for the development of the Yukon Territory.

Canada's north holds the key to this nation's future strength and greatness. Its possibilities are just beginning to be widely understood. There are in all of Canada no more virile people than are to be found there, nor is there a potentially more valuable area.

There are government actions that stimulate and encourage incentive on the part of the individual Canadian. These are measures that show a practical understanding and recognition of the vital importance to the