

Mr. GORDON: That gentleman is a field officer who is carrying on work in the field in connection with the investigation of peat bogs, but he has nothing to do with the technical work. Probably I should have made that distinction when I said that no peat experimentation was being carried on. No technical work in the laboratories or anything of that kind is being done.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What are the duties of this peat specialist?

Mr. GORDON: He investigates peat bogs in order to keep the department advised thereof. While at the present time these sources of fuel may not be called upon or needed, yet I do not think it is desirable that the department should lose sight of the possibilities of the peat bogs; they should be treated as an insurance for the future.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): As I understand the minister, this vote of \$2,820 is to provide for a peat specialist to keep in touch with the peat bogs. The peat bogs which are commercially feasible are fully known to the department and have been for years, and I cannot for the life of me see the sense of maintaining a specialist just to be sure the bogs do not run away. If no experimental or laboratory work is being carried on in connection with the peat bogs, why keep a man on at \$2,820 per year just to keep in touch with the existing bogs? Is he undertaking research work?

Mr. CHAPLIN: What other expenses are there in connection with this officer?

Mr. GORDON: There is a small amount which is absorbed in the geological surveys branch for expenses. Outside of the use of peat for fuel there is a possibility of its being used for other purposes. The litter and humus from the Alfred bog has a fairly ready market. I believe the retention of this officer is justified.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I wish the minister would justify it to me. Perhaps he can give the committee the net income derived as a result of the disposition of litter and humus? If we are spending \$2,820 per year we should receive some value for it.

Mr. GORDON: I am told that the total income from the sale of these products would probably pay the salary of the peat specialist and leave a little over.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What is the net income?

Mr. GORDON: I have not the figures before me.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That is the trouble; I doubt very much whether the net income from the sale of litter and other products would pay this man's salary. If he is rendering any useful service I am only too anxious that his salary be continued. I should not like to see him dropped from the service; possibly he could be engaged in some other research capacity, but when no experimental work is being carried on we should not retain a man simply to keep in touch with the existing peat bogs.

Mr. GORDON: Mr. Speaker, as it is eleven o'clock I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. gentleman who is leading the house (Mr. Guthrie) advise whether it is the intention of the government to follow the practice of former years, that of having the debate on the budget take precedence over all other business except questions, notices of motion for the production of papers, and the introduction of bills? The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) did not make any mention of this procedure, but I assume that was an oversight on his part and that the practice of former years will be followed.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I assume that the former practice will be followed, but I should not like to make a definite statement in that regard. The Prime Minister will be here at the opening of the house on Thursday and probably will announce that such will be the case.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

END OF VOLUME II

