

treaty, subsections 26, 31, 32, article III, article IX and article XII, section 1 of the treaty, would definitely restrict the opening up of our great natural resources. May I suggest to the high contracting parties that this is one of the fundamental economic necessities of the entire North American continent, and if our great natural resources are not expanded to the fullest extent not only we but the republic to the south, that great and friendly nation, will suffer. We specifically refrained from mentioning sovereignty. I believe we realize, as the Prime Minister pointed out this morning when discussing atomic energy, that no question of narrow sovereignty can carry real weight at the present time, and we feel that we should reject any appeal to present this adverse report on the treaty and the protocol on a question of sovereignty. I am not going to speak at length on the individual parts of the treaty, but I would suggest—and the report was a unanimous one—that, when this treaty is redrawn and reconsidered, these fundamental and basic points of international agreement shall not be violated.

Item agreed to.

449. Canada-United States permanent joint board on defence, \$2,500.

Mr. GREEN: Will the Prime Minister explain why this vote is so small? Is that the total amount for the board?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This item relates only to incidental travelling expenses.

Mr. GREEN: What is the total vote for the board?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Department of National Defence and the Department of External Affairs meet the general expenses of the board, and this amount is to supplement what has already been provided.

Mr. GREEN: Is there any intention of doing away with the board?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Oh, no.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Chief architect's branch—Ontario—

255. Dominion public buildings—improvements and repairs, London public building—repointing masonry, painting and repairs (revote \$15,000), Ottawa—hydrogenation laboratory for the Department of Mines and Resources (revote), Ottawa—central experimental farm—water tank and pump house, etc. (revote \$22,000), \$480,000.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: What is this item?

[Mr. Adamson.]

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works): This is for improvements and repairs to public buildings in Ontario.

Item agreed to.

Chief architect's branch—

551. Public buildings generally—repairs, alterations, fittings and improvements—further amount required, \$75,000.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: In the absence of the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Bryce) I should like to ask the minister certain questions in regard to Gimli.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): Will the hon. member be good enough to wait until we get to item 565, which is for wharf reconstruction and so forth? There is a vote of \$10,000 there for Gimli.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Very well.

Item agreed to.

Chief engineer's branch—dredging—

552. Maritime provinces—further amount required, \$46,200.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): May I point out the necessity of undertaking dredging at Pugwash. That is a port where no dredging has been done. It is one of the finest ports in all Canada for depth of water, but it requires some dredging to straighten the channel, which is just a natural channel, in order to take larger steamers. At the present time it is able to take steamers with a draft of about twenty-one or twenty-two feet, which are the 4,700-ton boats; it will not take the 10,000-ton cargo boats, of which so many were built in Canada during the war. For these it would require dredging in certain places to a depth of over twenty-eight feet. I am not going to delay the committee further at this time, but I wanted to point this out to the minister, because it is the general wish of the shippers in that part of Nova Scotia—and this port also serves a considerable portion of New Brunswick—that this work be undertaken by the department as soon as possible.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): We shall certainly take note of the remarks made by the hon. member.

Item agreed to.

Chief engineer's branch—construction, repairs and improvements—harbours and rivers—Prince Edward Island—

561. Charlottetown—wharf reconstruction and improvements (estimated cost \$340,000), \$50,000.

Red Head—wharf extension and breakwater (revote \$2,900), \$3,500.

Rocky Point—wharf reconstruction (estimated cost \$42,000), \$20,000.

Harbours and rivers generally—for maintenance of services, no new works to be undertaken—further amount required, \$10,000.