

Supply—Transport

against the decision of the C.P.R., and of the C.P.R. By consideration and co-operation they could work out jointly some scheme to continue the service on the Arrow lakes until some other satisfactory form of transportation is provided.

I have dealt with the subject hurriedly; but it is important and urgent for at least three thousand people whom I have the honour to represent. I do urge that the Minister of Transport take action along the lines I have suggested, because the people in the Arrow lakes district are certainly looking forward to the maintenance of this service until other satisfactory transportation is provided.

Mr. Abbott: I shall see that my hon. friend's remarks are called to the attention of the minister, who is now appearing before the railways committee.

Mr. Green: Mr. Chairman, like yourself I am a native of the West Kootenay district and I endorse the remarks of the hon. member who represents that riding. In addition, the hon. member for Kamloops has asked me to express to the committee his support of the remarks just made. The service in question is vital to that part of British Columbia. I believe it might be possible for the government to work out some agreement with the province of British Columbia under which the two governments would arrange to subsidize the service to an extent sufficient to keep it in operation.

Some hon. members may think that this would be breaking fresh ground. However, I have here the estimates of the Department of Transport for the year 1954-55, and I find at page 568, in the vote for the Canadian maritime commission, an amount of \$100,000 as a subsidy for a boat service between Owen Sound and ports on Manitoulin island and Georgian bay, Ontario. There is also a vote of \$35,000 for a boat service between Pelee island and the mainland, again in Ontario. Then, in addition, there are votes for salt water services.

I have given two examples of subsidies voted for fresh water services; and I believe this service on the Arrow lakes in West Kootenay would come in the same category as the two services to which I have just referred. I would hope the Minister of Finance would discuss the matter with the Minister of Transport with a view to including a vote in the 1954-55 estimates which would result in the maintenance of this Arrow lakes service.

[Mr. Herridge.]

Mr. Abbott: I shall see that what has been said is brought to the attention of the minister.

Mr. Goode: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter to be discussed not only by hon. members on the other side of the house. The hon. member for Kootenay West spoke to me about it this afternoon, knowing very well that I have used this steamship service on many occasions. I was astounded to learn from the hon. member for Kootenay West that the service was to be taken away from these people. I have travelled on that lake perhaps hundreds of times, and I do not know how the people affected will be able to get into or out of that locality unless something is done. I am pleased to know that the Minister of Finance is going to bring the matter to the attention of the Minister of Transport. I am sure however that it will be placed before the house again if something is not done about it.

Item agreed to.

Canal services—

606. To provide for expenses in connection with the St. Lawrence ship canal surveys and investigations (including St. Lawrence seaway investigations)—further amount required, \$200,000.

Mr. Green: This item calls for a further amount of \$200,000 for expenses in connection with the St. Lawrence ship canal surveys and investigations. I notice in the details at page 22 that all of the amount is for professional and special services. How is this money to be spent?

Mr. Abbott: Aerial surveys of the St. Lawrence river basin, \$30,000; field surveys in the Cornwall and Lachine areas during the winter, \$120,000, and a hydraulic model of the Galop section, the Cardinal-Iroquois area, to be constructed and housed by the national research council, \$50,000. The total is \$200,000.

Mr. Green: To what persons and firms are those payments to be made?

Mr. Abbott: I have not that data here. The aerial survey would be made by regular aerial survey companies. However, I could get that information.

Mr. Green: I would be grateful if the minister would.

Mr. Abbott: I shall do that.

Mr. Green: Perhaps the item might be allowed to stand in the meantime.

Mr. Abbott: The hon. member could ask the same question when a similar item in the main estimates is discussed. He could