

Supply—Northern Affairs

the progress in the park has been just about as rapid as one could expect it to be. All we needed was a little more money. Possibly it would not have been easy to spend that money if we had it. There is one important improvement which I feel the country ought to make in the park rather soon. There should be a good swimming pool in the park. In rather earlier times past private enterprise provided a swimming pool, but that swimming pool was condemned. It was thought by those who had charge of such matters that it was hardly suitable and probably not safe enough; therefore it was closed. Since the closing of that swimming pool the deficiency has been noticed rather painfully in the park. I would suggest to the minister that if it can possibly be done in the very near future, a fine swimming pool should be built. It should be in a large, commodious, beautiful building which could be used on stormy days so that the people could come in out of the rain or out of the cold winds such as we sometimes get there in the summertime, and enjoy themselves just as well inside that building as they would if they were outside. Sometimes we have stormy weather on three, four and five days in a row, in the summertime. And in the park, for reasons that do not need to be gone into, it becomes a very disappointing situation to those who happened to choose those particular days for their holidays. Therefore, if we could have a building such as I have indicated, we would be additionally grateful to the minister.

Mr. Hodgson: Item 305 is a large item consisting of \$3,500,000. A little over \$1 million is allotted to roads in the park. Can the minister give us a breakdown of the money that will be spent on roads in each park?

Mr. Lesage: This involves some research and I do not think I have a breakdown of the figures now. The main item is in the Banff national park covering the reconstruction of the Jasper highway from Mile 0 to Mile 10, that is from Lake Louise. The estimated cost of that is \$602,000. At Jasper there is another item of \$148,000 for the completion of another portion of the Jasper highway. There is an expenditure of \$350,000 for surfacing the Cabot trail between Mile 0 and Mile 18.5 in Cape Breton Highlands national park. In the Fundy national park there is an item of \$30,000 and another for \$10,000. In the Jasper national park there is an item for the replacement of a bridge at Mile 15 on the Banff-Jasper highway at a cost of \$100,000. And there is another item for the Banff-Jasper highway at a cost of \$53,000. I am just going through these items now.

Mr. Hodgson: It is quite all right. The reason I ask this question is that I have some very close friends who live near Jasper park and I have some other friends who also visited the park in Manitoba and both complained bitterly to me as a member of parliament at the state of the roads and said the worst road they had come over was in the Manitoba national park, and I believe roads through other parks in the west are in the same bad state of repair.

Mr. Harkness: I am very glad to hear that the Banff-Jasper-Lake Louise highway is now being improved. I was over it last summer and I am sorry to say that the American tourists with whom I spoke who were going up to the ice fields at Columbia all complained bitterly about the state of the highway. There is no doubt it is extremely bad as far as the national park is concerned and the state of the road undoubtedly means that we are not getting as many customers in that area as we might have and therefore I think it is quite essential that the road be improved. Apparently about 10 miles of that road from Lake Louise up is being rebuilt and a certain amount of resurfacing being done. But I wonder if the minister could tell us how soon it is expected the whole road will be surfaced.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member will appreciate, it is a very costly operation. We are spending over \$900,000 this year on the improvement of that road.

Mr. Macdonnell: What's that?

Mr. Lesage: The road from Banff to Jasper. Oh, you mean what is \$900,000?

Mr. Macdonnell: Yes.

Mr. Lesage: The financial critic of the opposition should know better than I.

Mr. Macdonnell: I am just quoting from the authority across the gangway.

Mr. Lesage: We will complete that road as rapidly as possible and have it all in good condition. I agree the scenery along that road is really beautiful, perhaps the most beautiful in Canada, and it is a great attraction for tourists. I can assure the committee that the improvement of that road has very high priority.

Mr. Harkness: I am glad it has priority, but the minister has not yet indicated how soon the road will be completed. He has mentioned the fact that it is an expensive operation and that he expects to spend about \$750,000 this year on that project. There are some expenditures which make money and some which do not bring in any return at all, but this happens to be an expenditure which, in my opinion, is going to bring in a