

However, this does not affect the general policy of the government, namely that of using as far as possible, Canadian coal for heating government buildings.

Mr. PURDY: I am sorry the minister has suffered inconvenience from the dirty coal dust. At the same time I have at heart the interests of my constituents in Nova Scotia. By a recent ruling of the foreign exchange control board, in order to conserve exchange my constituents have been refused the privilege of selling their lumber in the United States market unless it is paid for in official dollars, or, in other words, dollars purchased from the foreign exchange control board. As a result, the operators in my constituency have to accept prices \$2 or \$3 per thousand less than they could have obtained if they had sold in the unofficial market. In the marketing of lumber we have to start at the top and work down. In that respect we are not in the same situation as the manufacturer who starts at the bottom and works up. We have to take the prices we can get for our articles, and work down. The regulation of the foreign exchange control board which stipulates that we cannot ship our produce to the United States market unless it is paid for in so-called official dollars means that the workers in our lumber woods must work for a lower wage than otherwise they would receive. In other words, in order to conserve exchange with which to buy oil to heat the Daly building, and other public buildings, my workers who are employed in a primary industry are called upon to work at a lower rate of wage. I do not think, even at the price of inconveniencing the minister and the patrons of the Chateau Laurier, that should be permitted.

Item agreed to.

Chief Architect's branch.

Construction, repairs and improvements of public buildings.

Maritime provinces generally.

287. Dominion public buildings, improvements and repairs, \$50,000.

Mr. HAZEN: Is the \$50,000 voted last year to make improvements and repairs to dominion public buildings in the maritime provinces all expended?

Mr. CARDIN: Practically all expended.

Mr. HAZEN: On what buildings is this vote of \$50,000 to be expended, in the present year?

Mr. CARDIN: It covers improvements and repairs to any public buildings in the maritime provinces. Judging from the past, in all probability the whole amount will be expended.

Mr. HAZEN: Does the minister know what buildings require repairs at the present time?

Mr. CARDIN: I cannot tell the hon. member exactly. All public buildings require a certain amount of repair. In some instances, a coat of paint may be required, and in others, doors may have to be changed, and all that kind of thing. The vote covers only the annual repairs to buildings, repairs which may become necessary during the course of the year. It does not cover additions.

Item agreed to.

Chief Architect's branch.

Construction, repairs and improvements of public buildings.

Generally.

296. Experimental farms and science laboratories—replacements, repairs and improvements to buildings, \$100,000.

Mr. GREEN: Does this vote cover improvements to buildings at the central experimental farm in Ottawa? Out there I believe one building connected with the division of botany was being extended, and it would appear as though the extensions have been stopped. The building has been left half improved. It does not seem sensible to leave a building in that condition.

Mr. CARDIN: This vote is to cover buildings at the experimental farms.

Mr. GREEN: This building is at the experimental farm in Ottawa.

Mr. CARDIN: This refers to all buildings, not only in Ottawa.

Mr. GREEN: The building to which I refer is at the experimental farm here in Ottawa; it houses the division of botany, and the extension is only half finished.

Mr. CARDIN: It is not covered by this vote.

Mr. GREEN: What department would that come under?

Mr. CARDIN: Agriculture.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Since the Department of Agriculture is doing away with five or six of these experimental farms, will this \$100,000 be required?

Mr. CRERAR: It is the experimental stations that they are doing away with.

Item agreed to.