

Supply—Resources and Development

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

which highly-trained firefighters could be carried quickly into threatened areas far from roads and far from ordinary water communication, and dropped by parachute. For that purpose it would seem to me that a plan of co-operation with the Royal Canadian Air Force could be worked out under which various commandos could be trained to go into any area where fires have broken out as a result of lightning or from other causes, and where they are remote from ordinary direct access.

I do not want any suggestion to be made that I am proposing that the Department of Resources and Development attempt to supplant, or in any way to enter into the field of direct responsibility of, the provincial departments. I feel sure, however, that the provincial departments would welcome some plan which would make it possible to fly in either their own or other trained men to some of these areas, with aircraft in the possession of the Royal Canadian Air Force which could do a job that the highly effective but smaller aircraft of the various protection services are not able to do.

This whole problem is one that goes beyond that of protection of the forests themselves. This department has under its administration the encouragement of travel into this country. Right at the present time there are a number of areas in different parts of Canada where travel is prohibited because of fires, even at this early season. This therefore is a matter of direct concern not only from the point of view of protection of the forests for commercial services but also because of its effect upon the tourist business. Once again I am placing before the minister the importance of a plan whereby the transport aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force could be brought into operation under some co-operative arrangement, and whereby they could fly, into areas not otherwise accessible, parachute firefighters with special equipment who could drop in and do this job. It is not any new suggestion over here, nor is it a suggestion of something that has not worked. It is being worked today very successfully in a number of areas in the United States.

I make this proposal to supplement what has already been said by the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe as to the immense importance of taking every step possible to prevent loss by fire, which actually is eating up more wood than all the industries that are producing so much in dollars at this time.

Item stands.

Progress reported.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Speaker, as arranged some time ago, tomorrow we will have a discussion on freight rates under item 524 of the Department of Transport. Then we shall try to dispose of the few items that are left in that department. I understand there are a few left. We hope to conclude the estimates of the Department of Resources and Development and then we shall proceed with the estimates of veterans affairs and citizenship and immigration.

At 11.03 o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

[The following items were passed in committee of supply]:

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

A—Department—

358. Departmental administration, \$370,640.

Development services branch—

359. Branch administration, \$55,215.

Water resources division—

360. Water resources division, including the administration of the Dominion Water Power and Irrigation Acts, and including grant of \$350 to the international executive council, world power conference, \$541,766.

361. To provide for studies and surveys of the Columbia river watershed in Canada, \$380,000.

362. Lake of the Woods control board, \$12,480.

363. To provide for the expenses incurred under the agreement between Canada, Ontario and Manitoba, confirmed by the Lac Seul Conservation Act, 1928, moneys expended to be largely reimbursed, \$17,750.

364. To provide for excavation of a flood channel at Dalles rapids in Winnipeg river in Ontario to reduce flooding of riparian property affected by regulation under the Lake of the Woods Control Board Act (revote), \$60,000.

Wildlife division—

365. Wildlife resources conservation and development, including administration of Migratory Birds Convention Act, \$300,000.

National parks and historic sites division—

366. National parks and historic sites services, \$10,138,886.

367. Trans-Canada highway—surveys of route in Banff and Yoho national parks, \$25,000.

368. Grant to the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation, \$5,000.

369. Grant to aid in the development of the international peace garden in Manitoba, \$15,000.

370. National Museum of Canada, \$250,000.

371. Lands division—administration of dominion, ordnance and admiralty, and public lands; seed grain collections, \$282,200.