

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The Canadian representative at that conference, my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew), is on his way back to Ottawa. I think he will get here on Monday. It may be possible to make a short statement on the conference that afternoon after I have seen the Minister of Fisheries. I hope to be in a position to make a statement myself on that day on the results of the recent conference in London, and I may be able to associate with that statement a short one dealing with the Sydney conference.

CIVIL SERVICE

QUESTION AS TO FIVE-DAY WEEK IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is a question which perhaps should go to the Secretary of State. If someone is not acting for him in his absence, perhaps the Prime Minister can answer it. Will a statement be made soon as to the five-day week for civil servants in June, July and August?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): A statement will be made just as soon as a decision is reached.

Mr. Knowles: It has not been reached yet?

IRRIGATION

ST. MARY-MILK RIVER PROJECT—AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOMINION AND PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): Some days ago I was asked by the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) whether the contract for the St. Mary dam had been signed. I just want to say that it was signed some days ago.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Dion in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

358. Departmental administration, \$370,640.

Mr. Fraser: Does the minister wish to take these items up separately, or would he like general discussion on the first item?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): Mr. Chairman, I would of course like to expedite these items through the committee. I am in the hands of the committee as to where they would

Supply—Resources and Development

prefer to discuss the different items. I have no objection to the practice of a general discussion on the administration item.

While I do not propose to make a lengthy statement, I should like to say that although the estimates of the Department of Resources and Development for 1950-51 show an increase of \$19,081,710 over the previous year, a review of these estimates shows that they include a few new items authorized by statute or made necessary as a result of statutory obligations: for example, Trans-Canada Highway Act, \$20 million; administration of Trans-Canada Highway Act (increase), \$286,695; trans-Canada highway through Banff and Yoho national parks, \$25,000; to recoup Minister of Finance for advances made to Northwest Territories Power Commission, \$30,000. Deducting these items, there is an actual decrease of \$1,259,985 in the normal estimates of the department.

It has been necessary to ask for an increase in several of the votes, while in others we expect to be able to get along with a lesser amount than that provided in the previous year. With the reorganization of the departments of mines and resources and reconstruction and supply into three new departments near the end of a fiscal year, it has been difficult so to divide the votes for 1949-50 that an accurate comparison of appropriations may be had. Consequently some of the increases are more theoretical than actual. However, I shall be glad to explain the reasons for these increases and decreases as each vote is under consideration.

As we come to the votes for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the national film board I shall make separate statements.

Mr. Adamson: Does the minister wish to discuss the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation now, or leave it until the particular item is called?

Mr. Winters: I think it would be preferable to leave it until we come to the item.

Mr. Bryce: I want to take up the question I asked the minister a few minutes ago on the orders of the day. The minister said that the houses in the flooded area in St. Boniface, Manitoba, owned and operated by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation would be put in shape by that corporation. I do not know whether the minister is listening to me or not.

Mr. Winters: I am trying to listen, but I told the chairman that I could not hear the hon. member.

Mr. Bryce: I want to get this clear in my own mind. Central Mortgage and Housing