

EVIDENCE

MONDAY, March 28, 1960.
11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. Initially, we will deal with a couple of matters which came up at the last meeting.

A request was made for copies of the acts concerning natural resources. There are twelve acts. Dr. Ollivier has had mimeographed two of them so, you have a complete set. They are available at this time for distribution and I would ask that they be passed out to the members.

Also, there is one other matter which I wish to deal with at this time. Someone asked for a definition of "navigable waters". I am told that a request has been made to the Department of Public Works, under whose jurisdiction navigable waters come, to prepare a definition, which will be submitted some time later.

Gentlemen, we have with us this morning Mr. T. M. Patterson, director of the water resources branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and we will call on him to give us an outline of the present activities of the branch.

Mr. MARTEL: Mr. Chairman, before we proceed, I would like to mention that we have in attendance Mr. J. A. Schryburt, director of public relations, Canadian lumbermen's association. The lumber industry has a great interest in water resources because of its influence on the forests and the forests influence on waters. Could Mr. Schryburt have the privilege of attending the sessions?

The CHAIRMAN: We are happy to have Mr. Schryburt with us this morning.

Mr. T. M. PATTERSON (*Director, water resources branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources*): Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

Your decision to hear from officers of the water resources branch at this time is, to my mind, a good one. Consideration of the estimates of this branch is one of your ultimate goals and it seems appropriate that at an early stage you should have presented to you the place which the branch activities take in the broad program of assessment and study of problems associated with water that was outlined to you by my minister, the Hon. Mr. Hamilton, at your opening meeting last week. In a country such as ours with its vast areas, its variety of soils and vegetable cover, its distribution of population and of industry in all its forms and, above all, its climatological and topographical extremes, water problems are legion and may be expected to increase with the advance of our country.

At today's session I propose to outline to you in their broader aspects some of the duties and responsibilities as well as the history of the water resources branch and to have Mr. J. D. McLeod, chief engineer, follow with a more detailed account of the branch organization and the manner in which we carry out our basic responsibility in recording the surface waters of the country. Mr. McLeod and Mr. R. H. Clark, the chief hydraulic engineer, are invaluable assistants to me and I credit them together with a hard working and efficient staff with the degree of success that I consider we have achieved and are achieving in our undertakings.