

in the position of falling revenues with a depression already started, and loaded with air mail contracts made by the previous government with private corporations at fabulous prices. I cannot speak with certainty with reference to the contract to which the hon. member referred, but I can speak with certainty regarding one contract to carry mail from the city of Toronto to the city of Buffalo. The contract was so improvident—

Mr. McINTOSH: You are talking about only one contract.

Mr. LAWSON: Well, I cannot talk about more than one at a time.

Mr. McINTOSH: Evidently.

Mr. LAWSON: The hon. member was talking about only one. That contract was so improvident that it was costing the government of this country fifty cents per letter in addition to what was paid by the person who had to put stamps upon the letter. Under those circumstances, the previous government found it necessary to curtail those air mail services. It was not a question of curtailing the national development of a national airways service.

Mr. HOWE: This is all out of order. We are discussing at the moment aids to municipalities. Could we get back to the subject?

Mr. ESLING: Has the minister received any plan and proposal for a feeder landing field at the city of Nelson, which is the capital of the Kootenay country?

Mr. HOWE: It is very difficult to find a field around Nelson. We have examined the situation, but we have not given up hope; we shall look into the question further, and if there is a possibility there, we shall pursue the matter.

Mr. ESLING: This city of Nelson is an ambitious city. In order to provide a proper field it is necessary to build a river wall and to reclaim a considerable area of land. In such a case, could the city be assured of one-third of an expenditure up to the sum of \$100,000, under this present policy of municipal aid?

Mr. HOWE: I think this is hardly the place to go into a large project of that kind. The building of an air field for Nelson is a half million dollar project anyway, and it requires a good deal of study. I shall be glad to take the matter up with the proper authorities at Nelson when the proper time comes.

[Mr. Lawson.]

Mr. GREEN: Will the minister give an explanation as to the amount of money that has been paid to the city of Vancouver in this connection? We understood last year that \$160,000 would be paid, but I believe that amount has not yet been paid.

Mr. HOWE: We decided that an expenditure of \$90,000 was sufficient to put the Vancouver airport into the shape required for our work, and we granted Vancouver that sum last year.

Mr. GREEN: Has that money all been paid?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: Is any more to be paid?

Mr. HOWE: If further improvements are required, Vancouver is entitled to a further grant on the basis of the money the city has spent.

Mr. STEWART: I notice that there is an increase of \$300,000 in this item over the corresponding item of last year. Has the minister any details of the directions in which he proposes to expend this increase?

Mr. HOWE: We have made a general survey of the work that we think is required, but it is hardly down to the point where we can detail it. This is a blanket vote, but we think about \$800,000 will do the work which we are trying to do this year; that is as near as we can survey it.

Mr. LENNARD: Is the airport at Hamilton, Ontario, one of those under consideration to be improved under this feeder system?

Mr. HOWE: We sent a contract to Hamilton as a result of negotiations, and the good people of Hamilton are holding it unsigned, as far as I know.

Item agreed to.

Meteorological division—

Meteorological service, including allowance of \$400 to L. F. Gorman, observer at Ottawa, \$426,000.

Mr. LAWSON: Is the allowance some special remuneration in addition to the regular salary, or what is the purpose of it?

Mr. HOWE: It is made to a civil servant who has been doing this work for many years. He is very highly trained in it, and by arrangement with the department concerned we allow him \$400 for the work.

Mr. MARSH: Does this item of \$426,000 include the meteorological service that we have been getting from year to year, or does it concern the air service only?