

Supply—Northern Affairs

of development at this time is desirable economically, considering the urgent needs felt in other sections of Canada.

But, Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, those projects cannot help the unemployed, and yet it was in this guise that they were dangled before the people. How many men are back to work on account of such projects?

As you no doubt know, Mr. Chairman, the functions and responsibilities of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources are not limited to the Yukon and Northwest Territories; section 7 of the Northern Affairs and National Resources Department Act, 2-3 Elizabeth II, Chapter 4, prescribes:

(1) The Minister may formulate plans for the conservation and development of the resources of Canada and for research with respect thereto,

This section also provides that:

(2) The Minister may co-operate with the provinces and municipalities in carrying out any conservation or development plans under subsection (1).

It so happens then, that under the estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, which are before us at this time, certain grants or subsidies may be made to provinces, and to the province of Quebec in particular. Now, how could the province of Quebec benefit from those contributions put at its disposal by the federal government as would the other provinces?

Well, Mr. Chairman, if I turn to page 403 of the estimates, I find there "contributions to the provinces of amounts equal to one-half of their expenditures for camp ground and picnic area development." I understand this is a two-year plan and that the required amount has already been expended, or almost. I understand too that these camp grounds or picnic areas must be established alongside highways. In Megantic, more particularly, there are three provincial highways crossing the county lengthwise, whereas two other highways cross it breadthwise, at least in part. Along at least three of these roads there are magnificent lakes which could easily be developed, if not from the tourist point of view, at least for the benefit of the young people of adjoining municipalities. This could be done if advantage were taken of these contributions to the provinces.

Contributions are also made to the provinces to help them build access roads to certain resources under the provisions of certain agreements, already in force, or about to become so. An amount of \$9,000,000 has been set aside in the estimates in this regard, on page 424 of the blue book.

Intense exploration is going on at this time in northern Quebec, with already highly satisfactory results, especially as regards iron ore. Will the province of Quebec take advantage of these contributions or will it act in its accustomed manner, refusing any part of the necessary or at least useful subsidies put at its disposal by the federal government?

Obviously I am not talking about national parks since no national park in the province of Quebec comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government, although there are historic sites maintained by the federal government as, for example, the Battlefields park in Quebec, and some others.

Our national resources, Mr. Chairman, are not limited to our mines, there is also our forest system which is of interest to each and every province. This year we will be called upon to vote \$1,650,000 to help the provinces to take stock of their forest resources, to undertake reforestation and to protect their forests against fires, all this in accordance with certain agreements. I refer now to page 429 of the blue book. Obviously, several provinces will take advantage of that assistance from the federal government and, unless I am mistaken, the province of Quebec may be the only one to do without it.

Roads and access routes to those forests are also necessary. The federal government is offering one million dollars to the provinces in this connection. Once again, what proportion of this amount will the province of Quebec get, if the provincial government of my province clings to the policy of non co-operation it adopted when a Liberal administration was managing the affairs of this nation?

All those amounts which are lost to Quebec are lost because of Quebec's insistence on making political capital with federal-provincial relations, both in the fiscal and other fields, whereas all parts of Canada should be co-operating in the development of our country.

I am convinced that the Quebec government is as anxious as other provincial governments in Canada to develop its own province. Some one will object that national resources come under provincial jurisdiction. I agree; the objection will also be made that if the Quebec government accepted those subsidies from the central government, it would destroy provincial autonomy. The easy answer to that one is that central government contributions will in no way prevent provincial authorities from exercising that autonomy and from favouring the more particular interests of the residents of Quebec with regard to natural resources.