

\$1,000,000 for just one fishway at Hell's Gate on the Fraser river, and I intend to give a detailed explanation later on, when we come to that item.

Mr. BLACKMORE: What rivers are being cleared, or on what rivers is this money to be spent in maintaining the personnel for clearing?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): This amount of \$7,000 is only for maintenance. If a freshet occurs and logs come down and block a river, we must spend a certain amount of money in order to clear the river immediately so that the fish may go up and spawn. This is the amount required for that work.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am interested in learning just what fishways are involved here, and what rivers; there must be two or three or four. What are they, and where?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): This money is spent mainly in British Columbia; on the tributaries to the Skeena river, for example, wherever the current is very strong and there is danger of logs accumulating at certain places. The tributaries of the Skeena and some of the tributaries of the Fraser are the rivers where we spend this money.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It strikes me that the sum of money is inadequate to maintain anything like an effective force operating over any considerable area. I should think more than \$7,000 would be required for the whole dominion.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): This amount is not for the building of fishways or anything like that; it is just for the maintenance of rivers where accumulations of logs may block the run of fish.

Mr. BLACKMORE: My point is that \$7,000 is hardly sufficient to maintain more than four or five men.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): They do not work all the time. We pay them what we should, but we do not pay more than we should, and it comes to about that amount.

Mr. BLACKMORE: What official of the department is in charge of this work? Who determines when to hire men, and whom does he hire? Where does he get them, and how much does he have to pay them?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): This work is done under the departmental engineer here in Ottawa. If the hon. member wants the details in connection with this amount I can get them for him to-morrow, but at the moment I cannot remember all these small amounts.

[Mr. E. Bertrand.]

Mr. BLACKMORE: I do not wish to delay the item, but it strikes me that \$7,000 is a very small sum if any considerable number of fishways are involved.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): It is a small sum, I admit, but at present we do not need any more than that for this purpose.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Well, I should like the details, in order to satisfy my mind on this matter.

Mr. KNOWLES: A moment ago the minister indicated that there was another item somewhere. Would he indicate where it is? As a matter of fact this amount of \$7,000 is broken down on page 82 of the estimates, and it would appear to cover only wages, cost of living bonuses, travelling expenses and sundries.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): The other item is 83, on the next page.

Mr. NEILL: I was glad to hear the minister say that this item was not bigger, because this gives him all the money needed for this purpose. I shall recall those words to the minister perhaps later on, after the house adjourns and the department gets down to doing some of this work.

This is a rather complicated matter. One hon. member spoke about another item, and there are other items. There is one dealing with the Fraser river on a big scale. The matters dealt with under this item are not very large in themselves; they consist merely of taking out a log jam which has prevented the salmon from getting up a creek. However, there is a sort of by-product of this sort of work which causes a great deal of trouble. The primary purpose of the work, of course, is to enable the fish to get up the river, but I think the officials of the fisheries department in British Columbia are a little too prone to stick to the strict letter of the law and say that as long as they let the fish go up they do not care at all what occurs in consequence of their actions. That is not the view taken by the people who suffer. I can think of several instances where, in all good faith, the fisheries department has spent a sum of money in clearing out a river or in taking out a log jam. The fish got up; there is no question about that, and then the department just washed their hands of it. The result was not so good for the people whose land adjoined the stream, for the removal of a log jam might set the current in a different direction, which might cause erosion and take away part of a man's farm. The fisheries department