

Northwest Territories

to give the governor in council power to dissolve the council before the expiration of three years so the writs can be issued and the election held exactly every three years. This provision is in the new law, chapter 331 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, which is not yet in force because we have to wait until the Criminal Code is in force before proclaiming it.

Mr. Macdonnell: One further question. I observe in chapter 195, section 8, subsection 6, it says:

Where an elected member dies while in office, the governor in council may appoint a member in his stead for the balance of his term of office.

Is it proposed to change that, and is subsection (d) in addition to that?

Mr. Lesage: Both chapter 195 and chapter 331 will provide that the governor in council may appoint a member not only when a member dies but when one resigns. That was a difficulty this very summer, when there was no provision to replace Mr. Hardie, after his resignation.

Mr. Drew: I realize the minister did not reply to my second suggestion, and I want to emphasize one aspect of this which I think is worthy of consideration, particularly at a time when the members of the council are here and there will be an opportunity to discuss it with them. I recognize that the Northern Transportation Company Limited, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eldorado Mining and Refining, comes under the Minister of Trade and Commerce and I am not raising this point to suggest that it be transferred to the minister of northern development. The reason I am raising it is that I believe this is a vital part of the development of the Northwest Territories.

One thing that strikes me very forcibly in regard to this is that the value of the total assets of this company as shown in the 1951 statement amounted to \$3,586,000 and the profits were \$444,940. I think most hon. members will agree that this is a fairly large percentage of profits in relation to the estimated capital value of the assets of this company. Let me point out that these profits are all added to the cost of transportation.

I recognize that in the 1952 statement the profits are substantially less; nevertheless there is an interesting item which again might be worthy of consideration in relation to some of these things, for there was a loan of \$600,000 made without interest to the Eldorado Mining and Refining company by Northern Transportation Company Limited. I think that might be a matter for consideration by the minister of northern development, as to whether it is wise to lend money to another

[Mr. Lesage.]

company instead of putting it into the expansion of transportation services which would help develop and open up this great northern land.

I leave that there. I am simply putting it before the house and the government as a suggestion, for I feel they should consider the advisability at this time of transferring supervision of this company to the council which protects the affairs of that area within which this company operates.

Mr. Green: Paragraph (b) provides that the governor in council may make regulations respecting reindeer similar to those already included in chapter 331 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952. Can the minister tell us what the situation is at present with regard to reindeer herds in the Northwest Territories? I have an article here which appeared in the August 1, 1951, edition of *Maclean's* magazine entitled "We're missing our Future in the North", written by Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Dealing with the possibility of raising reindeer in this area he has this to say:

As far as reindeer are concerned the U.S. department of agriculture estimated some years ago that Alaska could permanently support about four million head without overgrazing. Since Canada has about ten times as much permanent grazing land, I consider that it could support a reindeer industry of forty million head, which in terms of pounds of meat is equivalent to about eighty million sheep. The musk-ox, whose feeding habits are even better suited to the north than the reindeer, could do far better: I estimate that Canada's north could maintain a hundred million musk-ox, which is the equivalent of four hundred million sheep. What such a vast industry would do for Canada, and what such supplies of food might do to assist in other developments of the north such as mining and oil, I leave to your imagination.

We all know that Mr. Stefansson is a great expert on northern Canada, and I would be very interested to hear from the minister just how far the government has gone in the direction of establishing herds of reindeer and musk-ox.

Mr. Lesage: In 1922 a royal commission recommended the introduction into Canada of an experimental herd of reindeer. After extensive field investigation, arrangements were made to have a herd of 3,000 reindeer delivered overland from Alaska to an area in the vicinity of Aklavik suitable for their maintenance. The trek commenced in 1929, and after many delays and hardships 2,370 reindeer reached their new home.

Since then a great deal of effort has been expended in developing this project, which was intended to supplement the game resources of the Northwest Territories and to diversify the economic base of Eskimo life by the introduction to Canadian Eskimos