

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Macdonnell: You are having to investigate the investigators.

Mr. Lesage: We are trying to obtain a definite idea of how long this is going to take.

Mr. Green: That is quite funny, but really the minister's department should be able to give us a better report than that on the progress made with this investigation.

Mr. Lesage: I can, of course, give an idea of the progress that has been made but I thought I would mention that the investigation is being investigated. These investigations by the board were authorized in January 1949 to determine improvements for water resources of the Fraser valley in the interests of fish, wildlife, water power, flood control, irrigation, reclamation of wet land and other beneficial purposes.

The dominion-provincial Fraser river basin board, made up of the officials of the provincial government of British Columbia and the government of Canada, undertakes the work. Fifty per cent of the cost is provided by public works and the balance by the province. The expenditures during the fiscal year 1949-50, in round figures, were \$36,663; 1950-51 \$76,768; 1951-52 \$80,447; 1952-53 \$103,695, and the forecast for 1953-54 is \$114,000. The work proposed for 1954-55 by the Department of Public Works of Canada covers aerial photography, bathymetry, and sedimentation, \$76,000; this department \$13,250; Department of Fisheries, Canada, hydrometric stations \$5,000; Department of Agriculture Canada (P.F.R.A.) dam-site investigation \$60,000; department of lands and forests, that is the British Columbia department, \$74,000. The board will study river pollution, domestic water supply, the provision of dikes, land-use basic mapping, and there will be \$30,000 for administration. That program has been studied by the board and we are bearing 50 per cent of the cost.

Mr. Macdonnell: Mr. Chairman, the idea of the investigators being investigated has amused me just as it has the minister and I would like to pass on to him for his edification an old rhyme which goes like this:

Larger fleas have smaller fleas
Upon their backs to bite 'em;
And these again have other fleas,
And so ad infinitum.

Mr. Lesage: In this case there is no fee for investigating the investigation because we ourselves are investigating the investigation.

Mr. Leboe: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering whether the minister is prepared to let us know what if anything is being done on what [Mr. Lesage.]

is commonly known as the north fork of the Fraser or McGregor river in regard to flood control, and also if any thought has been given to co-operation with the provincial government in support of hydroelectric power at the same time as this control set up is considered.

Mr. Lesage: I am informed that any work being carried out on the McGregor river is part of the investigation being made by the board to which I referred a few moments ago.

Item agreed to.

Water resources division—

316. To provide for a contribution to the cost of constructing a dam on the Conestogo river near Glen Allan, Ontario, for the purposes of flood control and water conservation, in accordance with the terms of an agreement entered into between Canada and the province of Ontario, \$1,000,000.

Mr. Purdy: I wonder if the minister could give us some particulars in regard to this agreement. There was \$1 million last year on this item and I notice there is \$1 million again this year. Is this a revote?

Mr. Lesage: Very little was spent last year and this will be a revote.

Mr. Purdy: Can the minister give us some details of the agreement and the proportion of the contributions?

Mr. Lesage: There was an agreement reached by the province of Ontario and this government about the construction of a dam on the Conestogo river near Glen Allan in Ontario. The agreement was made on September 15, 1953, whereby Canada will contribute 37½ per cent of the estimated cost of \$5,400,000 for the construction of this dam and the maximum contribution by Canada will not exceed \$2,025,000. Under the provisions of this agreement the province is permitted to make arrangements with the local conservation authority, which in this case is the Grand river conservation commission, to underwrite a portion of the cost of construction. The province intends to enter into an agreement with the Grand river conservation commission whereby the commission will assume 25 per cent of the total cost of construction. Owing to delays in the execution of the agreement between Canada and the province of Ontario, and between the province of Ontario and the Grand river conservation commission, progress on this work has been somewhat less than was originally anticipated. As a result very little was spent last year. That is why our share for the fiscal year 1954-55 is expected to be approximately \$1,000,000.

Mr. Pallett: I would like to ask the minister if this project is now under way and, if so, when it is estimated it will be completed.