

has been referring to, I think, must be answers to questions asked, just like the table I put on the record this afternoon. Those were answers given in reply to questions which I put on the order paper. I think the hon. member, if he looks back over the record, will find that no report has been tabled in the house during this session.

Mr. MAYHEW: Well, I have tabled a good many reports since the beginning of the year, and I cannot remember them all. I know that we have been very particular about tabling reports which we are obliged to table. Nearly every second day I am tabling some report. If the report has not yet been tabled, I will see that it is. These loans that remain are self-liquidating loans; that is, they are for waterworks, gas systems or electric light systems. They are not for sewerage systems, but are for what are called self-liquidating undertakings. Therefore I think the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Church) was confused when he said that some of these loans were made for parks and the like. There were no loans made for that purpose.

The hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Thatcher) spoke about the way in which the loans were allocated. The total amount of the loans for this purpose granted in 1938 was \$30,000,000. The way in which it was appropriated or allocated was this.

The act provides:

... the aggregate amount of the loans to be made to such board, commission or agency and the municipalities concerned shall not exceed the maximum amount of loans which the municipalities would be entitled to receive if acting separately and shall be apportioned between the board, commission or agency and the municipalities concerned on a basis to be approved by the governor in council.

The amount provided would be in the ratio of the number of people in the municipality to the number of people in Canada as a whole, so that no single small municipality could get any really large loan. I hope that answers the hon. member.

Mr. THATCHER: The government would not consider increasing that amount at the present time?

Mr. MAYHEW: I could not state what the government would do, and I am quite sure, if the minister were here he would not be able to say what the government might do. I will see that the representations which have been made in this house today are brought to the attention of the minister. I think it has been a very useful loan, which served its purpose in the period from 1938 to 1941. After that, materials were needed for other purposes;

men were needed for other purposes; there was no need to provide additional work, and it seems to me it was a wise move on the part of the government to suspend those loans for the time being, in order that material and men might be used in the war effort. Whether or not they will put this in operation again, I cannot say. The total of the loans made was \$7,035,783.86. The amount paid back was \$1,816,192.40; the amount outstanding at the present time is \$5,219,591.46; and there has been no default on any of the loans.

What we are asking here is something that probably should have been foreseen when the act was first drawn. Canada is a growing country, and perhaps it should have been anticipated that the small district of today will probably be a village a couple of years from now and a town a little later on. That is exactly what has happened. If I may use the words of the hon. member for Vancouver North, who supplied me with this memo:

The village and the improvement district have exactly the same boundaries and cover the same people. Each year the improvement district, however, had to continue to elect three trustees to administer the water works while the village, at the same time, elected three village commissioners. This seemed a needless duplication, so in 1946 a plebiscite was held in Westview on amalgamation of the water district and village, and was carried. The village commissioners, with the approval of the department of municipal affairs for the provincial government, then applied to the federal government for transfer of the loan from the old improvement district to the village of Westview. This legislation is to enable such a transfer to be made.

That is all we are asking in this amendment.

To answer the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett), I think we have to look back to the time in 1938 when these loans were first made, and see the conditions we were facing at that time. Numbers of municipalities were not in very good shape financially. Work of this kind was needed, and other people were not ready to risk their money in those municipalities. I grant that conditions have changed, and it is easy for us to look at the matter in a different light today; but if we go back to 1938 and look at the conditions which existed then, I think we shall see the advisability of it. What the government may do in future is not for me to say; and I am quite sure, if the minister were piloting this bill he would not undertake to say it either.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee and reported.

Mr. MAYHEW moved the third reading of the bill.

Mr. H. W. HERRIDGE (Kootenay West): I have a word to say before third reading is