

Supply—Trade and Commerce

understanding is that the sittings are to be completed at a relatively early day. I was told that substantial progress has been made in draft form on a large part of the report, and that it is hoped that the report will be filed with the government in time to have it printed before there is another session of parliament.

Mr. Fleming: I take it that it is not likely that a report will be available before the close of the present session?

Mr. St. Laurent: No; it is not likely that the commissioners will have completed their consideration of the draft before this session ends—at least it is my hope that this session will end before the autumn, and my intimation was that the commission hoped to have a report ready for us early in the autumn so that it could be printed before the opening of another session of parliament.

NEWFOUNDLAND

BOOKLET PREPARED BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH
BUREAU OF STATISTICS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to say a few words about a booklet that has been placed in the hands of hon. members within the past few days, giving a description of the new province of Newfoundland. I express my warmest congratulations on the workmanship and the content of this booklet, which has been produced both for general circulation to the public and for the information of hon. members. May I at the same time say that this is the type of publication that helps greatly to create a wider understanding of our own country. May I offer the suggestion that it would be helpful if a similar booklet were issued, for general circulation in the same way, describing the activities of each of the other provinces as well.

Mr. Lesage: What about provincial autonomy?

An hon. Member: Smart aleck!

Mr. Rowe: You could learn something from that.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Without wishing to take anything away from the compliments which have been offered to those responsible for the preparation of this pleasant and interesting booklet, I should like to point out that it contains some serious errors. When the next edition comes out I hope that they will be corrected. I have already drawn the attention of officials

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

of the Department of External Affairs to one in particular, which has to do with the decision in regard to the Labrador boundary between Quebec and Newfoundland at the time that Newfoundland was a dominion. It states that the result of the decision was that Newfoundland gained Labrador, an area of 110 square miles. It should be 110,000 square miles.

SUPPLY

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

Atomic energy control board—

614. Chalk river project—capital and operating expenses—further amount required, \$200,000.

Mr. Coldwell: Last evening the Minister of Trade and Commerce was asked if the committee on atomic energy could be reconstituted this year, and his answer was a categorical no. I was interested in hearing at the last meeting of that committee last session the suggestion that this year we might have a committee on the work of the national research council, a body which has done an excellent job, and whose activities are not well known either to the house or to the country. I believe it would be worth while, for the education of both this house and the public, to set up a committee this year on the national research council. I hope that the minister will consider this suggestion.

Mr. Howe: I think my hon. friend is not correct in saying that I gave a categorical no last night. I said I would give consideration to the proposal. I was then asked if I would promise a committee on atomic energy, and I said no. There are objections to having a committee on atomic energy this year. I need not go into them.

Personally I should be glad to see a committee review the work of the national research council. I think hon. members would find its work exceedingly interesting. Since it is only three or four months since a committee examined the atomic energy project, I suggest that a committee this year could consistently examine the work of the national research council. It would give the committee a more comprehensive view of Canada's activities in the field of research. I shall be glad to consult my colleagues and, if they have no objection, to arrange for the formation of a committee to examine into the national research council.

Mr. Low: I should like to say a word on this. I was a member of the committee which