

two of intensive development to prepare for production. I quote from page 151 of the report:

The value of animals fattened in feed lots during the season 1941-42 totals about \$3,900,000 including cattle and lambs.

And again:

Over 90 per cent of the grain fed cattle were placed in the feed lots on irrigated areas. During the same period 100,000 lambs from the ranges of southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan were placed in the feed lots and fields of the irrigated districts.

That indicates the potentialities of this area. I should like to read from page five of the 1941 report of the Alberta sugar beet growers, as follows:

We now feed and finish annually upward of 100,000 lambs and 25,000 cattle in this small area.

That refers to the relatively small area now under irrigation, and accordingly we can form some estimate of what could be done if the whole area were under irrigation.

This food producing area is in a safe region just east of the Rocky mountains. It could be more easily defended against western attack than perhaps any other area, and it is more remote from eastern attack than any other area in Canada.

It is strategic because it is so near the possible battle area, both in Alaska and along the western coast. We are sure of it because there is an excellent climate, plenty of water and good soil.

In addition, we would be safeguarding our birthright with respect to that water. As matters stand now, we are in danger of trading our birthright for a mess of pottage.

I repeat once more: when this war is over, there will be a cry for economy and there will be a danger of our neglecting to construct this project. I suggest to the members of the committee and to the minister that that portion of the recommendations of this committee which asks that construction of the project be deferred until after the war be disregarded. There are too many of us who are looking for this war to end within the next year or two. It may last ten years. It is high time that members of the parliament of Canada and of the government of Canada began to use a little foresight instead of dragging along everlastingly with hindsight.

Item agreed to.

Surveys and engineering branch.

154. Geodetic service, \$133,780.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: What is being done this year with regard to this service?

Mr. CRERAR: It is simply a continuation of the work that has been going on for many

[Mr. Blackmore.]

years. I understand that my hon. friend has some knowledge of mathematics, and therefore probably he knows more about the inner meaning of this vote than I do. It is for the purpose of establishing by triangulation the precise points in various parts of the country from which all other surveys are made. It is particularly important, for instance, in the matter of boundary lines, in the matter of hydrographic survey work, and especially in the matter of getting precise maps. During the past year we have been asked to extend this work, by some of the defence services. When you are laying out flying routes and all that sort of thing, accuracy is necessary. The purpose of the geodetic survey is to determine by a rather intricate method of calculation the precise points from which all surveys start. This vote has been in the estimates for a great many years, and the work is being carried on because of its necessity.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: That was why I asked the question. I was wondering whether there was any extra work on account of the war. The work of surveys along the boundary is, I suppose, continuing. After they have made a survey of the international boundary, by the time they have completed that one, I suppose the work has to be done over again, has it not?

Mr. MacNICOL: All kinds of issues come up all the time across the boundary.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, that is the case: for instance, particularly in the mountain sections, to get the precise points on which the boundary is determined. I might add that to-day practically the whole staff of the geodetic survey is engaged in work relating to the war.

Item agreed to.

Indian Affairs branch.

160. Branch administration, \$56,032.

Mr. COLDWELL: I want to say a few words, and I think this is the best place to say them. I am not going into the situation to-night—it is too late—regarding the condition of the Indians in the country. I think the condition of our Indian population is a sad reflection upon the white population of our country, from the point of view of disease and so on and so forth. But what I am going to mention to-night is this, that it seems to me that the life of an Indian is not regarded as being worth very much by some of our magistrates, and even perhaps by the department itself. I learn that at a place called Chippawa Hill, on Saugeen reserve, in this province, an Indian named Ernest John was