

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): One point.

Mr. Hardie: I asked the minister a number of questions. I asked for answers; I have received no answers.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): What do you propose to do about this whole thing?

Mr. Hardie: I told you on Saturday and you told me on Saturday that you agree with me and that you were trying to do something about it.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): That is right.

An hon. Member: Be careful.

Mr. Hardie: You be careful,—

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): You had better be careful, my friend.

Mr. Hardie: —or you will be quoted. I asked questions. I asked you a moment ago whether people in your employ do not make reports within six months.

The Chairman: Order. I must remind hon. members that they must address the Chair and not carry on discussion among themselves.

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, I will ask you this. Will you ask the minister whether he will answer the number of questions I have asked? Will he do what he said he would do last Saturday when he said, "I will come back to the actual details of Garry lake in a moment." Will you ask the minister to give us the details of what happened since last December 10 or December 15 until March 22 or April 24, of this year, at Garry lake? Will you please ask the minister whether he will answer that?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Thank you for the floor. Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member for Mackenzie River has done the cause of the Eskimo of northern Canada no good by going through this heart-rending description, the ethics of which are very doubtful, by reading into the record parts of an autopsy, as he did last Saturday.

Mr. Hardie: What was wrong with that?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I agree with him in so far as the fact that the caribou shortage has been growing in the last two or three years is concerned. I have read to the committee what we are doing. I think the general feeling in the committee was that there was a determination to grapple with this problem.

The hon. member knows full well that the area about which he is talking is hundreds of thousands of square miles in extent. He wants me to take a single information service officer and ask him to give reports of every 10 minutes of his day.

Mr. Hardie: You ask every other employee to do it.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): The officer gives reports, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: I must inform the hon. member for Mackenzie River that the minister has the floor.

Mr. Peters: Will you call it six o'clock.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Not for half a minute; I have a couple of things to say. This whole matter was dealt with in the committee on Saturday in an attitude that was above reproach, and because the hon. member made his statement. I accepted in full the responsibility. I laid down what we are trying to do. Then, he asks me the impossible by saying that I have not informed the house of the details of this thing. I have given every bit of information I have on the cache. I do not know how much food was in the caches for Eskimos. They are hunters and fishermen, and when we do try to help them we do it by those patrols and reports from those people. Naturally, when we hear a report we go to help, for they are very independent. They want to move around and carry on their traditional methods of living. We try to help them in every way we can to do that. Where they cannot make a living we are moving now to bring them into areas and do the very thing which I thought the hon. member was going to say he suggested.

Mr. Hardie: I did.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I say we approve of that and now the hon. member is attacking me on the basis of not doing anything about something about which I did not know anything.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Hardie: At six o'clock, Mr. Chairman, we were discussing a problem which I brought before the house on Saturday and to which, so far as I am concerned at least, I have received no answers. I have received generalizations, yes, but no answers.

I shall now leave this subject until possibly the officials of the Arctic division are before the minister and can advise him on what did happen, not only at Garry lake but at Pelly lake during this winter. I should like to say at this time that I was a member of the committee on mines, forests and waters