

(Translation):

Concerned with the distress of the maritime coal mines, our mines branch undertook a whole series of projects aimed at finding new outlets for coal. The fuel division has developed a specially designed power fire-grate for the economic use of maritime coal. According to our estimates, those works should continue in 1961-62. We intend also to provide money for an analysis of the problems involved in underground stresses. This is of course a long term program for certain Canadian mines. I hope that it will result in safer and more effective mining practices.

Mr. Chairman, time does not permit me to go into those matters at more length. But I think I have said enough about those projects to give you an idea of their worth. Many of them are of the utmost importance for the mining industry and many are long-term programs. But the common purpose there is to place our country in a better position, through technological advance, to develop its mineral resources.

(Text):

The geographical branch of my department is also making important contributions to our progress. In the fiscal year 1961-62 it will continue its land use surveys which provide what I might describe as a blueprint for agricultural planning, forestry and many other projects related to the effective use of our land and our resources. The branch will continue its ice studies, its terrain analyses and will update and revise portions of the now famous atlas of Canada. The current estimates provide \$500,626 for the geographical branch including the administration of the Canadian board on geographical names.

Regarding the board I should like to make one observation. The Canadian board on geographical names serves as a federal-provincial authority in the naming of geographical and other features of this country. I believe, however, that too little is known of its work, and that it is not consulted often enough in these matters. A town, a lake or a mountain may look the same regardless of what we decide to call it. But many of our geographical names are both childish and inappropriate; others lead to confusion and misunderstanding. I believe that a little education and publicity in the right direction would prevent many an eyesore in nomenclature on our maps.

In our estimates we have provided \$2,428,838 for the dominion observatory which is engaged in what is undoubtedly the most far-reaching program of its distinguished history. Less than a year ago I had the pleasure of opening the observatory's radio telescope near Penticton, and I can now

report that its performance in the observation of hydrogen clouds has exceeded all expectations. Meanwhile the branch will soon bring into operation at Victoria, B.C. a new 48-inch telescope for complex investigations of the physical nature of stars and the interstellar gases. The building to house it has been completed and the instrument will probably go into action sometime in November.

Getting back to earth, the observatories will carry out an extended gravity survey over Baffin island—a project of importance to national defence—and others over northern Quebec and Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the prairie provinces. As part of its studies of the earth's magnetism the branch will continue its ground observations and will conduct a series of aeromagnetic flights over the Arctic islands and large areas of the Arctic ocean. Continuous records of magnetic variations will be provided from stations in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

In the field of seismology the branch will record earthquakes from its eleven stations stretching from Halifax to Victoria and will make special observations for the department's polar continental shelf project. The current estimates provide for building new seismic and magnetic observatories and the enlargement of the present seismic vault at Ottawa.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, I have just outlined only a few of the projects undertaken by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Besides, I could not, in such a brief period, give our research workers and technicians the credit they deserve for their valuable help to the development of our country and for their well-known achievements. Surely, Mr. Chairman, I have said enough to bring out the essential part those people are playing toward a continued development of Canada and to indicate that in the near future, new and very promising avenues of research will be open to us all.

**Mr. Dumas:** Mr. Chairman, I should like, first of all, to congratulate the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Comtois) for the fine statement he made on the activities of his department. At this point, I feel there is no need for extensive remarks and therefore, I shall only make general comments. Later on, we shall have every opportunity to put questions to the minister on the various items as they are called.

Mr. Chairman, the minister dealt briefly with the coal industry and he mentioned that he would have a certain statement to make when the items relating to the dominion coal board are under discussion.