

revenues and taxes within the Northwest Territories. The Northwest Territories Act authorizes the commissioner in council to make expenditures out of the Northwest Territories revenues, and section 12 is a particular authorization with respect to the expenses of members of the council. But these are just empowering sections, and then the council is empowered to pay the expenses out of the Northwest Territories revenues.

By Mr. Harkness:

Q. There is an act which we passed last year which provides for the indemnity and for the travelling expenses.—A. Mr. Chairman, the act was amended last year. It was amended to change the indemnities. The indemnities are specifically provided as to maximum amounts and minimum amounts. These were stated in the amendment to which Mr. Harkness refers. The travelling and living expenses were not changed. Those are the ones contained in the Northwest Territories Act which is included in the revised statutes of 1952.

By the Chairman:

Q. Was that amendment in force in the fiscal year to which the Auditor General's report applies?—A. No. The amendment was not in force in that year; but the amendment does not affect the expenses to which he referred. That section which relates to expenses simply says that each member of the council may be paid actual travelling expenses and an allowance for living expenses not exceeding \$25 a day.

By Mr. Monteith:

Q. The Auditor General refers to: "Reference is now made to the subject because it was observed that two advances remained outstanding for many months." I wonder if Mr. Robertson has anything to say on that?—A. Yes. Two advances were accounted for—

Q. First of all, what do you mean by advances?—A. Suppose that a session is going to be held, like the session of the council which was held in January of this year, and the members, say, in Aklavik and in Fort Simpson and Fort Smith, are sent cheques in advance of the session to provide for their living and travelling expenses in order to come to the session in Ottawa. This is necessary because most of the members do not have any private means or any means of any consequence at all. After they have come to the session and return to their place of residence they are supposed to submit an itemized account of their travelling expenses and a statement of the days for which they are entitled to living expenses, and to make refund of whatever the balance is of their advance. In two cases there was a considerable delay in getting those back. In one case I think it was because the member was a new member and did not understand the procedure. In another case it was because of the difficulties regarding transportation. In Aklavik you have six months when you cannot get mail in and out, and also the member at this place is a trapper who is out for a considerable period.

By Mr. Cavers:

Q. What is the usual length of a session?—A. Normally from a week to ten days.

Q. And there are two sessions each year?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Applewhaite:

Q. Is the Auditor General of Canada the Auditor General of the Northwest Territories Council?—A. The Northwest Territories revenues are a special account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and they do come under the Auditor General's audit in that respect.