

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

supreme court judges, I think the needs of district court litigants are being met during this interval. Otherwise I can assure the hon. member that perhaps we would not have been so deliberate in our consideration of the matter.

Mr. Higgins: I think the minister said an appointment was to be made shortly.

Mr. Garson: Fairly shortly.

Mr. Higgins: Where would it be made?

Mr. Garson: That is a matter we still have to consider. We would not like to say which district.

Mr. Knowles: It will be announced next week, after the house adjourns.

Mr. Garson: No—if I may reply to the interjection; there will not be an announcement next week after the house adjourns.

Mr. Knowles: It is standard practice.

Mr. Garson: Not in this case.

Mr. Higgins: Can something be done fairly quickly, because they do not know where they stand. Would the minister appoint these people soon?

Mrs. Fairclough: Today, let us say.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

244. Payments in connection with the movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council, \$4,000,000.

Mr. Harkness: Why has order in council P.C. 1903 of April 26, 1951, which provided subventions under this item for coal mined in strip mines, been cut off?

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): That whole matter is under consideration. We hope to make a decision in the near future to the satisfaction of those concerned.

Mr. Harkness: I am glad to hear that, because I can see no reason why strip coal mines which have been in operation for a number of years and are now in some cases almost out of business should be discriminated against in the matter of subventions.

Item agreed to.

277. Geological surveys—administration, operation and maintenance, further amount required, \$150,314.

Mr. Adamson: I should like to make a suggestion which I believe would expedite the handling of estimates of this department. My suggestion would be that the estimates of this department and those of the Department of Resources and Development should be submitted to the mines, forests and waters committee. These estimates are technical,

and there are technical experts in both departments. To try to obtain information in committee of the whole is most unsatisfactory. In the great development of our natural resources now taking place I think all hon. members should have an opportunity to hear the experts from these departments. I hope my suggestion will be accepted because in the twelve years I have been here I believe the committee on mines, forests and waters has not met.

Mr. Higgins: The minister will understand that certain areas in Newfoundland, because of the Newfoundland-Labrador bill, have been more or less alienated recently. These areas are of interest because of the mines and timber they contain. Has the minister considered that it might be advisable to ask for disallowance of that bill?

Mr. Prudham: I know nothing of the bill, other than what I have heard in the house.

Mr. Higgins: When he is aware of the bill, will he recommend its disallowance in October?

Mr. Prudham: I do not pretend to be a lawyer. That is a matter for the Minister of Justice to decide. I should think the point to which the hon. member refers would be dealt with on its merits.

Mr. Higgins: In that case—

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member is not in order in discussing a bill which is not before us.

Mr. Higgins: I believe I am right in asking the question, but I shall not press it. Would the Minister of Justice take notice and, when that bill comes before him, consider disallowance?

Mr. Garson: No doubt the hon. member is aware that in all cases all provincial legislation is so considered, as a matter of routine. In every case I sign a certificate to the effect that the law has been considered and that it shall take its course or, as in the very infrequent case, that consideration has been given to disallowance. So I am bound by the law to do what the hon. member suggests.

Mr. Higgins: It is a most unconscionable act, as I see it. Before we resume our sittings in October I would ask him to consider seriously what I have suggested. Otherwise I shall have to make a direct application to him.

Item agreed to.

LEGISLATION

723. General administration, estimates of the clerk, further amount required, \$45,000.

Mr. Knowles: Before this item carries I think it might be noted that one of the reasons