

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*

which developed on the trip we made a sort of bargain with the minister that we would not be too tough on his estimates, but I think we should have our say at this time.

At that time we visited the Frood-Stobie mine of the International Nickel Company. I come from an area where coal mining is the most important industry, and having worked in coal mines during the summer, having lived in a coal mining town, having associated with coal miners and my people having been coal miners all their lives, my eyes were certainly opened by this visit to a hardrock mine. Electric lighting is something you do not see in a coal mine and the visit certainly was a revelation to me. If such trips can be organized at no cost to the taxpayers I think they would be of great advantage to members of the house in learning what goes on in various Canadian industries.

Mention was made of the Bedford hydrographic institute by the former minister, and also the shipbuilding program which I understand is being carried out. This program was inaugurated by the former government and I congratulate the minister on continuing it. Hydrography and oceanography are of great importance today in the development of our country. We know that many matters of national importance come under this department, and only through the carrying out of surveys and research can we hope to develop our great country. I congratulate the minister on his work in this regard and I hope he will continue. It is most important to our country.

A matter more on the domestic side, shall I say, was raised by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg. It is dealt with in the answer to question No. 1,646 to be found on page 7569 of *Hansard*. It has to do with the wage scale for employees of the minister's department, and employees on certain ships of the Department of Transport. It is pointed out in the answer that by placing all employees of the Department of Transport on the same wage rates the department has more flexibility in moving crews from one vessel to another which would allow for better career planning. The answer continues:

The effects of this exception on wage rates applicable to personnel serving on Department of Mines and Technical Surveys vessels operating in the same area as vessels of the Department of Transport are presently under consideration with a view to eliminating any resultant unwarranted differences in rates.

I suggest to the minister that this is good. I have had representations in this regard, as has the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg and probably other members as well.

[Mr. MacEwan.]

I hope treasury board will make an exception, as it seems to me the words used with regard to personnel on Department of Transport ships would apply equally to personnel on ships of the minister's department, in that there would be more flexibility in moving crews from one vessel to the other which would allow for better career planning.

I wish to refer to another matter which actually comes under the estimates of the northern affairs department but certainly has a lot to do with coal mining and the minister's department. I refer to the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act under which subventions were inaugurated by the former government that are payable to commercial users of power in the Atlantic area using power generated from thermal plants utilizing coal. At the end of the year they receive a cheque by way of subvention which cuts down their power costs and means a great deal to them. Certainly there has been no intimation of any change in this policy, which is most important to the Atlantic area. In my area there is a thermal plant at Trenton which provides power for the region and is also linked by grid with the province of New Brunswick. When New Brunswick has been short of power that thermal plant has supplied power to that province. This has been most beneficial and I hope this policy will be continued.

The heavy water plant in the constituency of the hon. member for Cape Breton South for which tenders have been called will also provide a market for Cape Breton coal. At one point the Minister of Industry said the plant would be there, and then he was not quite sure. B.A. Oil then came forward with a submission allegedly involving a lesser cost for the production of heavy water, but apparently upon investigation this was found not to be the case. The plan is going ahead. Industrial Estates, a Nova Scotia crown corporation, has played and is playing a great part in the financing and establishing of this heavy water plant.

In this regard it should also be noted that the new atomic power plant to be built in Ontario will provide a market for the heavy water produced by the plant in Nova Scotia. The Minister of Industry referred to it in a statement he made in the house not too long ago. During the last few weeks I have had conversations with the engineer from the Nova Scotia power commission who has been assigned to act as liaison officer with Deuterium of Canada Limited, the company which is constructing the heavy water plant. He told me they were very happy to see that