

be myself. For the information of the hon. member for Lisgar I may say that I have never made any request to have Mr. Smart removed.

Mr. CANTLEY: The minister in the course of his remarks stated that this question of national parks was a live one from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I have heard a good deal during the last fifty-five minutes in regard to parks in the western provinces, but I have not heard a single word with respect to parks in Nova Scotia or in the maritimes generally. May I ask the minister what he has in view with regard to national parks in the maritime provinces?

Mr. MURPHY: At the present time the only request we have for the establishment of a park in the maritime provinces is from New Brunswick.

Mr. VENIOT: That is the place.

Mr. MURPHY: My hon. friend from Gloucester says that that is the place, and I agree with him. I sincerely hope that it may be found possible in the very near future, figuratively speaking, to have a park established in that province.

Mr. CANTLEY: I thank the minister for what he has been good enough to say, but I would point out to him that this question of a park in Nova Scotia was brought before the house, not last year, but two or three years ago, and I think on more than one occasion. In the eastern part of the province of Nova Scotia about the head waters of the Liscome river, at the corner of the three counties of Halifax, Pictou and Guysborough, is a large section of country, perhaps the best large section that we have in the maritimes, and certainly in eastern Nova Scotia. It is a section of country admirably fitted for a national park. I ask the minister if he will be good enough to have one of his officers make some investigation of the district, and give the matter his consideration. I hope that that will be done.

Mr. MURPHY: I shall be glad to give it some consideration.

Mr. CHEVRIER: With what has been said as to national parks and the desirability of keeping them up I fully agree, and so I shall add nothing to what has been said in that regard. These national parks have their value, but it lies largely in scenic beauty. A lot has been said, and quite properly, about the national parks, but not a word has been said about the educational value of the historic sites. There is a decrease of \$277,000 in this item. Will the minister be

[Mr. Mullins.]

good enough to say to what extent that reduction will be applied to the maintenance of the historic sites? While I am very much interested in the national parks from the national point of view, I am also greatly interested in the historic sites, and I would not like to see this particular activity of the department go entirely by the board. To what extent will this matter of historic sites be affected by the decrease of \$277,000?

Mr. MURPHY: The work will be carried on in practically the same way as in the past.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Then there is something here that I cannot understand. If there is a decrease of \$277,000 in this item, a certain part of that reduction must apply to the national parks, a certain part to historic sites, to the care of indigents in the parks and so forth. What proportion of the reduction will involve cessation of work on the historic sites? Does this mean doing away with a certain number of employees in Ottawa? Does it mean doing away with the maintenance of historic sites in Canada? What activities will be curtailed as a result of this decrease

Mr. MURPHY: We are spending on the historic sites this year about \$8,000 less than last year, but the work is not being curtailed in any way. It simply means that we are not doing quite as much work this year in marking new sites.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Does it mean a decrease of staff in Ottawa, and if so, to what extent?

Mr. MURPHY: This work is carried on by the parks branch generally, and is not a separate branch in itself.

Mr. CHEVRIER: But have any employees of the parks branch in Ottawa been let out, and if so, how many?

Mr. MURPHY: There are fewer employees in the park department at present than there were a year ago.

Mr. CHEVRIER: In the historic sites branch have any employees been retired or received notice of retirement?

Mr. MURPHY: Major Pinard and two stenographers.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Those are the only ones?

Mr. MURPHY: That is my information.

Mr. CHEVRIER: What is the reason for their retirement? I did not understand that the historic sites department was affected by the natural resources transfer.