

I am sure that all the friends of Mr. Miller in the department were sorry to see him leave and that they are sorry today to hear that he is ill in hospital when perhaps he should be profiting from his retirement by having more leisure and enjoyment after all those years which he has given to our country, Canada.

I wish to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Miller for his work, and we also wish his speedy recovery and return to good health. When he is out of the hospital and in good health he knows we will be pleased to have him visit us here while we have our sittings, if we have not adjourned.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think, without a seconder, that you have very competently expressed the opinion of every member of this committee.

The next meeting of your committee is on Thursday morning at 10 a.m. With your permission and in view of the fact that Dr. Harrison, the Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, expects to be away for some time, we will ask him to appear next Thursday morning at 10 a.m. I hope this will not inconvenience anyone. Is that satisfactory?

Agreed.

Mr. DUMAS: This will be satisfactory, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the director has to be away. We will be pleased to take this item on Thursday morning.

With your permission I would also like to add a word or two. We were very pleased to hear at the beginning of this meeting today that Mr. Murphy had been appointed to represent the minister in a tour of the north, and more especially the Yukon. It was certainly a very interesting trip, and we have now looked at the two pictures with great interest; they were very instructive. The report of our Chairman is also complete.

However, although I do not like to close this morning's meeting on a bad note, you will notice on the first page a paragraph which I suggest the Chairman might have dispensed with, where it says that the Prime Minister was the first one to make Canadians fully aware of the Canadian north. We know that even during the last war the oil from Norman Wells was being used for the great benefit of this country. We know also very well that all the mapping of the north has been completed. This is something which should be kept in mind.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dumas.

With your permission after our next meeting on Thursday, when we will consider items 200 and 201, in order to permit Dr. Harrison to take his trip, we will then, I hope, deal with the minister's statement. You will be entitled to ask questions and to make comments on his statement. As I said last year at the beginning of our meetings, I intend, as your Chairman and with your permission, to allow considerable latitude in respect of questions and inquiries relating to the estimates of this department.

Mr. HARDIE: Will the minister be here at the next meeting?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. You have his statement; you will have an opportunity to study it. One of the reasons copies of the minister's statement have been prepared is so that each member would have one and would have an opportunity to review it in the meantime. The minister will be here in attendance, and if any members of the committee wish any special officers of the department to be present here, please do not hesitate to say so.

Would the members of the steering committee meet at my office at 2:15 today?

Mr. DUMAS: We have a meeting at two o'clock, Mr. Chairman. Would it be possible to have the meeting of the steering committee at 7:45 p.m. today in my office?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; that will be all right.