

Mr. RALSTON: What I was really trying to find out was whether anything was done there in the way of expert work or whether it was more or less clerical, if I may so term it, synopsizing the various reports received. It occurred to me that the transmission of these reports from various parts of the empire could, in these times when conditions are difficult, be done directly between the different parts of the empire instead of the information having to go through a central office, and that such reports as were useful to us could be used in our Department of Mines and others discarded rather than that they should all go to a central bureau and be distributed from it.

Mr. NEILL: Did I understand the minister to say that this institute had been in operation only since 1923?

Mr. GORDON: That is my recollection.

Mr. NEILL: I have an idea, unless I have the wrong name in my head, that this had been running for about forty years and that at one time it was considered as being of great advantage, but for some years it has died out altogether. Could this information not be obtained through Canada House?

Mr. GORDON: I believe so.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous—to provide for payments in connection with the movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council and for the cost of administration thereof, \$2,000,000.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Will the minister explain the increase of \$250,000?

Mr. GORDON: The increase is because more coal has been moved subject to what is known as subvention. This increase is to take care of that extra movement of coal upon which subvention is paid.

Mr. REID: Is this a rebate given to the railway companies for transporting coal?

Mr. GORDON: No. Under the coal subventions the money is paid to the producer of the coal, not to the railways. The subvention applies not only to a comparatively

small movement for the railways, but east and west for coal used for industrial purposes. That is where most of the money involved in this vote goes.

Mr. NEILL: Does this cover payment to the coal mines in Vancouver island?

Mr. GORDON: Yes.

Mr. NEILL: As this amount is larger than formerly and as I presume we are voting it for the future, am I justified in assuming that the grants will be continued after they lapse as they will in June of this year?

Mr. GORDON: It is the intention of the government at present to see that the various orders in council establishing the subventions are renewed, and those who contemplate making the usual spring contracts have been advised that it is the intention of the government to renew these subventions in order that there will be no anxiety in regard to entering into contracts for the coming year.

Mr. NEILL: For what period will they be renewed—a year?

Mr. GORDON: The subventions being payable out of a vote of this character are of necessity only for the current year, because they come out of money voted by parliament for the purpose and not under a statute. Therefore this will be until the end of the fiscal year 1934.

Mr. NEILL: But the existing grant runs out in June, 1933. Will the government renew it for another year or will it be renewed only for nine months?

Mr. GORDON: If it were possible to renew it for a whole year, I see no objection to doing so, but my view at the moment is that we can renew it only until the end of the next fiscal year. If it is renewed again, then it would be for a twelve months period.

Mr. BENNETT: Or done by a supplementary estimate.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.