

*Supply—Resources and Development*

the casually employed, and we do not know how many come within that group. I should like to go one step further, and get more information about these temporary employees. According to the amount being voted they are being paid an average salary of \$2,050 per year; and I believe this committee is entitled to know how many it is going to be possible to make permanent. Personally I believe many of these people are useful employees, especially at election time, when we always find a great deal more money being voted for them. I know that in my own constituency over 150 temporary employees were put on before the last election, and we had a hard time to hold them down. They even split their votes. However, we were able to assure them that once the election was over, win, lose or draw, they would be dismissed.

**An hon. Member:** Were they?

**Mr. McLure:** Most of them lost their jobs, because the work ended then.

I was going to say that many of these people should be made permanent, and we should be told why all these temporaries are employed. If there is work for them, all the better. It seems to me the administration of this department is a pretty expensive matter, amounting in all to something under \$3 million. However, the things I desire to take up can be dealt with as the various items are called, since it is now one o'clock; but I repeat that I believe the committee is entitled to more information with respect to temporary employees.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

The committee resumed at three o'clock.

**Mr. Hodgson:** This morning in our deliberations much was said about historical events and all that sort of thing. I can concur in everything that has been said. I agree with my leader that a permanent home should be built for the relics of historical events and achievements so that they may be preserved for the education, benefit and pleasure of future generations.

There are, however, a few other things that I want to go into now rather than on each item. I am not going to ask the minister now to answer questions in full or any part of them as far as that is concerned. He can take the matters up as each item comes along, if he wants to. The matter of travelling expenses has come to my attention, because it seems to me to be a large amount for one department. I am not going into each item, but the amount ranges from \$300 up to \$34,000. The whole total is \$309,150. This is an increase of \$70,650 over last year. That

[Mr. McLure.]

seems to be a terrific amount for travelling. I do not know how many people have been travelling or where they have been travelling, but there must have been a great number and they must have travelled elsewhere than in the Dominion of Canada in order to spend that large amount of money.

The next thing I want to mention is the sundries accounts. I think these things should be more specific and that they should be set out so that we would know more about what they are. Probably the minister and his assistants can tell us just what these sundries are as we go along. The sundry accounts run from \$100 up to \$96,500. That seems to be a great deal of money for an account called a sundries account. The total for the sundries account is \$327,354, an increase of \$62,490 over last year. It seems to me that in some of these things there might be a saving, or at least they might be set out in such a way that we could understand them better. As we go over the estimates item by item, we hope that the minister will be able to clear up these matters.

Then the publicity account runs into \$3,617,834 or an increase of \$343,894 over last year. On this one item for publicity more money is spent by the department than is spent on forestry, of which the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe spoke this morning. I think that we shall need to have quite a few questions answered, and the minister had better get his assistants or helpers prepared to answer them when we go through the estimates item by item. I want to know about many things, and I am sure that there are others in the committee who feel the same way as I do about these large expenditures and large increases over last year. That is all I have to say now. We will take the estimates up item by item, as far as I am concerned.

**Mr. Green:** There is one matter to which I should like to refer on this administration item because it really does not come under any one of the specific items. It has to do with the question as to whether or not the government has an iron and steel policy. Today is the first opportunity we have had to discuss the estimates of this new department which, significantly, is known as the Department of Resources and Development. May I suggest to the minister that one of his main tasks should be to initiate policies that will lead to the development and the use of our Canadian resources. That is set out in the statute under which this department was formed. In section 7 (1) of last year's act we find the following language:

The minister may formulate plans for public works and improvements, housing, community development, research—