

Supply—Northern Affairs

to see it in the current estimates. Before the grant was discontinued for one year it was fixed at \$15,000 per annum.

Originally the grant resulted from the interest shown by the former member for the old constituency of Brandon, the late J. E. Matthews, who always took a most vital interest in this significant project. While we are grateful for the annual grant of \$10,000, there is hope that it will be restored to its former level of \$15,000.

In saying this I would point out that just within the last few weeks the congress of the United States voted the sum of \$100,000 for development on the United States side of the peace garden. It seems to me that \$15,000, or even more, would be a reasonably proportionate sum to be devoted to the project on the Canadian side of the boundary.

During the discussion today the minister indicated that he intends to make a complete survey of departmental activities across the country during the forthcoming summer. I am pleased to note his intention. So far as I know, I do not think any of his predecessors in the department has had the privilege or opportunity of visiting the international peace garden. I take this opportunity to extend a very cordial invitation to him to inspect the garden when he is out in that part of Canada. And if there is no other means of transportation available I shall be happy to see that he is taken down the beautiful highway No. 10 to the border. I am sure he will be tremendously impressed by the development that has taken place in the garden since world war II.

I do not want to prolong these remarks, but while I am on my feet there are one or two points I should like to bring forward. I am sure that eventually Canada will have a chain of botanical gardens right across the country. I know there are groups working toward this end at the present time, and that they have been so engaged for some considerable period. The nucleus of such a garden is already being established at the international peace garden, and it is the hope of those who are most vitally interested that eventually the peace garden will be included within a group of government-sponsored botanical gardens.

The idea was first conceived by the international horticultural society, and was largely the brain-child of the late Henry J. Moore of Islington, Ontario. That was one of the thoughts he had in his mind back in 1929 when attention was first given to the establishment of a garden of this nature.

Then I should like to make only a passing reference to a matter that might more properly be discussed under item 310. It is hoped, too, that some consideration will be

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

given to the establishment of a museum at the site of the international peace garden. The number of people visiting there annually is increasing. That fact has been recognized by the construction of a new customs port during the present year right at the entrance to the garden. I believe that eventually Canada will have a system of decentralized museums which will bring together all the cultural artifacts gathered from each of the districts, and that we may preserve in that fashion the cultural history of the area in which the museum is located. Quite recently some very significant discoveries in regard to Indian lore have been made in the vicinity of my constituency, and I presume that all the artifacts that have been uncovered in these discoveries have been moved to the national museum. It seems to be much more highly appropriate that these artifacts should be retained in the province in which they belong and form a part of the story of that particular area.

In concluding my observations, I once again extend the most earnest invitation to the minister to visit the peace garden to see for himself the numbers of people who visit there, and get a more personal appreciation of the significance of this important park. I hope he will accept the invitation.

Mr. McIvor: Since I lived in Souris for a number of years I know the importance of this peace garden. I will back up the hon. member completely in supporting \$15,000 to be spent because it would be money well spent.

My other reason for rising is this: When the minister is making the trip I would invite him to stop off at Fort William, where he would see some scenery worth looking at, in order that we might have mount McKay as a national park. We have been trying for this for a number of years, and if the minister gets a look at it I know what will happen.

Mr. Lesage: I wish to thank hon. members for all the very kind invitations they have extended to me. I would be delighted to accept all of them, but if I do I hope that the criticism of the opposition on the amount of my travelling expenses since coming here will not be too harsh.

Mr. Hodgson: That gives me an idea. Perhaps we should check up on these travelling expenses. The expenses in this item are not the minister's personal expenses.

Mr. Churchill: I should like to support what the hon. member for Brandon-Souris has said with regard to the international peace garden. I know it is a very worthy project and deserves all the assistance that