

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

It has been pointed out to me that I spoke of the pre-Cambrian. The hon. member for Villeneuve knows that I made a mistake. I meant the Canadian shield.

(Text):

Mr. Dumas: I do not want to delay the item, Mr. Chairman, but I noticed the subventions to universities have been increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000. This is a very good thing. Perhaps the minister can tell us how the amount is being spent this year. Is it \$50,000 or \$75,000 this year?

Mr. Comtois: It is \$75,000, and we are now in the new fiscal year.

Mr. Dumas: I wonder if it would be much trouble for the minister to tell us the amount for each university? I believe these amounts are distributed between various universities. Has the minister these figures available?

Mr. Comtois: I can give only the figures for last year. The figures for this year are under preparation and I do not have them now.

Mr. Dumas: Well, I have the figures for last year, so I am not going to impose on the minister by asking him to repeat them.

Mr. Comtois: I do not have the figures for this year because we are at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Mr. Dumas: That is what I wanted to know. I believe the department deserves credit for this scheme because through these studies that are done by the different universities we are gaining much at very little cost. I am certainly happy to see that the amount has been increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Can the minister tell the committee if Laval University have made application for a grant and whether or not they have qualified to obtain a grant under this provision?

Mr. Comtois: Yes. They are qualified and they have applied.

Mr. Dumas: Was any amount granted to Laval University last year?

Mr. Comtois: No. No amount was granted last year. It is for this year.

Mr. Dumas: Would that be the first year Laval have made application for such a grant?

Mr. Comtois: I think they had something previously, but I am not sure. I could give the hon. member an answer when I have the information.

Mr. Herridge: Can the minister inform the committee how many parties will be in the

field in British Columbia this year and where they will be or what areas they will be working in under this vote?

Mr. Comtois: My department yesterday issued a press release giving full details about the various parties we have in the field. If the hon. member wishes to have the details right now, I can read them. However, this release is available. I will send him a copy right away.

Mr. Herridge: I thank the minister and I shall be glad to receive a copy.

Mr. Comtois: I may say that the first province mentioned in the list is British Columbia.

Mr. Herridge: That is quite normal.

Mr. Tucker: May I ask the minister whether the release covers all provinces?

Mr. Comtois: Yes. We have 102 field parties. The release covers all provinces. Any hon. member can have a copy of the press release. Everything concerning each province is indicated there.

Mr. Dumas: I understand that last year the department carried out a special survey here in the city of Ottawa and that, after having completed the survey, it published a geological map showing the formation of the ground beneath the city of Ottawa. I have looked at the map and I can say that it is a very interesting one. There is no doubt that it will be extremely useful to a great number of people here in the city of Ottawa. I am just wondering whether the department intends to carry out the same work in the city of Hull, for instance. Hull is close to Ottawa; it is part of the national capital; and it might be a good idea if the department would carry out a survey beneath the city of Hull and the neighbouring villages.

Mr. Comtois: Yes. We will extend this work to the city of Hull and the district across the river in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Dumas: I am very pleased to hear that. I am told that the survey is going to be tremendously useful here in Ottawa. There is no doubt that our friends in Hull will be glad to hear that the department will do the same kind of work there so that contractors will be on the same basis in both cities, having regard to the fact that this territory is included in the national capital.

Mr. Fisher: On the estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources I tried to get from the minister some information about one of those roads that had been plotted and designed by his predecessor. I refer to one that ran from somewhere north