

Supply—Public Works

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): Then in regard to the records of the federal government and the different departments, what is being done in case any of those records have to be brought in by way of microfilm? What is being done in regard to that?

Mr. Garson: Well, "government," under the Canada Evidence Act and within that section thereof which has to do with the use of microfilm, means "the government of Canada or any province of Canada and includes any department, commission, board or branch of the government." Where it is advantageous and where some economies can be made by having and using this type of film, there would be some sense to their doing so. But as for a municipality microfilming its records just to avoid the prospect of having some of them produced in a criminal or exchequer court case, I should not think they would want to do this; for the cost would be far greater than the savings would be.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Harbours and rivers engineering branch—

365. Branch administration, including district engineers, staffs and related expenses, \$2,381,423.

Mr. Gillis: Mr. Chairman, there are two problems that I have to bring to the minister's attention briefly and I am going to do it under this administration item. The reason I am doing it is that, so far as the minister and I are concerned, it is a matter of unfinished business. There are two matters upon which we have been corresponding for some time. I was rather surprised when this year's estimates were introduced to find that there was nothing for the two very important projects I had brought to the attention of the department.

Another thing upon which I should like to advise the minister is that there is a great deal of interest in Cape Breton in these two particular problems. Of course, he being the minister in the cabinet representing the province of Nova Scotia, I know he is sympathetic, and there must be other influences behind the scenes which prevent him from doing something he otherwise would very much like to do. The first item concerns the improvement of the harbour in the town of Glace Bay. The minister's files will indicate that the board of trade and other bodies in that town have been actively bringing to his attention the need for improvement in that harbour. One of the main reasons that I think something should have been included, at least in the supplementary estimates this

[Mr. Garson.]

year, is that the town was rather badly hit by the closing of several coal mines which created a lot of unemployment.

As the minister is well aware, the town of Glace Bay is as far east as you can go; it is right on the Atlantic seaboard. The coal industry has been the main upkeep of the town over the years. It is now on the wane. In order to maintain the investments in the town in the form of schools, churches, and so forth, something else is needed and something has to be done to rehabilitate and maintain the town itself. This project that I am talking about, the expansion of the wharf and the details of how it should be done, have already been given to the minister's department, because I have press reports that indicate the board of trade are alleged to have brought to the attention of the department the need to expand the pier. One of the best ways that I can see of providing something for that town at the present time is by providing better facilities in the harbour to build up the fishing industry. There are two fairly large fish plants established on the waterfront there. About 10 years ago the department did a very good job in expanding the facilities that were there and reconstructing a new pier. It appears that the pier has not been extended out far enough. Another 600 feet should be added to it.

As the minister is also well aware, the largest swordfishing industry on this continent perhaps operates out of the town of Glace Bay. The swordfishermen from the minister's end of the province, from Newfoundland and from other sections, gather there for a couple of months in the year during the swordfishing season. Probably 200 or 300 boats are in and out of that harbour. The harbour is not adequate to handle them. If the minister had included something in his estimates this year it would have been an indication that the government realized the need of doing something in that part of the country.

It is all right to talk about bringing in new industries and to do this and that, but that is all in the future. The town of Glace Bay has transportation difficulties. It is not even on the main line of the C.N.R., although there is a coal company railroad that connects with it in Sydney. I am sure the minister will agree with me that an expansion of the fishing industry is something that is badly needed. It would not require the spending of very much money to extend the pier another 600 feet. If the harbour farther up at what they call the cove were dredged it would provide anchorage. It should be about 16 feet deep. I think it is