

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

I firmly believe that these surveys will be of a great help to prospection. In the north of the Abitibi area, towards James bay, there is a vast territory with infinite possibilities if, naturally, the increase in the price of gold, to which I referred earlier, becomes a reality. This area has hardly been prospected by a few prospectors, surveyors or mining engineers.

Therefore, there is no doubt that these technical surveys will have greatly contributed towards the development of those areas. (Text):

Mr. MacEwan: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with interest to other hon. members who have spoken on the estimates of this department with regard to gold mining, and so forth. I shall, of course, reserve any remarks I have to make about coal mining until the dominion coal board item is before the committee. There is a matter which I should like to again bring briefly to the attention of the minister. He is well aware of this matter, because I have mentioned it to him outside of the house and in this house in other sessions. I refer to the retention and continuance of Pictou, Nova Scotia, which is in my constituency, as the base for hydrographic ships.

These two ships, presently the *C.G.S. Cartier* and the *C.G.S. Acadia*, have been based there for the last number of years. They have become an important part of the economy of the town and indeed of the area. Among other things, they provide work for the local shipyard during the winter season. Local suppliers have an opportunity to tender for supplies for the ships, and a large number of the crew of these two ships live in Pictou with their families and make an important contribution to the community. These people would suffer great hardship if they were forced to move because there is adequate housing in the town and they, of course, wish to remain there. In addition, there are repairs to some of the launches carried out on the ships as well as repairs to other equipment carried out in the town.

As I have said, these ships have actually become an industry for the town, and their removal would be a serious matter for the community. I realize that the department, and I commend them for it, are establishing an oceanographic institute at Bedford basin in Halifax county. I am glad to see that work on this institute is being carried out, because the institute will mean much to that area. I understand that upon completion of the institute, many specialists from the minister's department will be located there and will work within that area.

I believe it is the intention of the department to carry out oceanographic studies.

Indeed, oceanography today is a study extremely important to many departments of our government. The oceanographic work will be carried out year around whereas hydrography is for a limited season. With regard to the hydrographic services which are, of course, carried out on a smaller basis, I believe that the two ships at present in operation will be replaced by two other ships as they are getting older, one which is being constructed at this time at Halifax and another one, which as I understand it, is on the drawing board in the department but it is a smaller ship and can easily be based on the port of Pictou as are the *Acadia* and the *Cartier*. The hydrographic studies are carried out normally from May to October in each year and although the port of Pictou is usually icebound during the winter period, when the harbour opens up these ships would be available, whether the present ones or the ones to replace them, during the necessary months, for years to come.

As far as facilities are concerned, it perhaps will be pointed out also that because of the disastrous fire in 1959 the complete waterfront facilities in this place were wiped out by fire. That is true. But working through the Department of Public Works they have gone ahead and accelerated plans for restoring the facilities and I am glad to report that the quay wall in the area has been almost completely restored. I was there last week. It is a fine structure and one of the ships, the *Acadia* is alongside the quay wall at this time ready to go out on the service. There are adequate facilities in existence there to look after these ships. On the quay wall there is a new shed being constructed which could be easily used by the department. A contract in the amount of some \$543,000 was let last week for the reconstruction of pier "C." This pier will provide many more facilities including a freight shed. There will be adequate facilities to look after these operations.

As I have said, the minister is well aware of these matters. However, I cannot repeat them too often in view of the extreme importance of retaining this hydrographic base in the port of Pictou. Based on the set-up and on the period needed for the studies and the facilities available and all the other matters which go beyond the normal scope, I would again reiterate and submit to the minister that this base be retained in that locality.

Mr. Herridge: I just wish to say a few words on this first item of these estimates, as one who has always been interested in conservation of our natural resources, whether renewable or non-renewable. When one looks at the estimates of this department one realizes that this is the department of national health