

Supply—Marine

Mr. CASGRAIN: In what district is that?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I think the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) can tell you.

Item agreed to.

Marine signal service, \$99,000.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Has a signal been placed on the light upon the island of Anticosti in the county of Charlevoix-Saguenay?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I do not think any new apparatus was installed last year. This vote is for service, not for new construction.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

Mines and geological survey—for administration of the Explosives Act (chap. 62, r.s., 1927), \$10,000.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Are there any salaries in this item?

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Mines): It is partly salary.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Then perhaps this item could stand.

Item stands.

Miscellaneous—grant to Imperial Institute, \$9,733.33.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Would the minister explain the reason for this grant?

Mr. GORDON: This is under an agreement with the United Kingdom and the other dominions. It is one of those institutions that were set up in Great Britain for the purpose of assembling information in connection with the mineral resources of the empire. Under the agreement each dominion contributes so much money, Canada's contribution being as is indicated in the item, \$9,733.33.

Mr. JACOBS: Is that in Canadian funds or English currency?

Mr. GORDON: I do not know.

Mr. CASGRAIN: How long has this agreement been in force between the government of this country and those of England and the other dominions?

Mr. GORDON: If I recollect aright, since 1923.

Mr. CASGRAIN: How long has it to run?

Mr. GORDON: At the present time a conference is taking place in London with a view to consolidating the various efforts such as this that have to do with assembling empire information with respect to many matters

[Mr. Duranleau.]

including minerals, and I am hopeful that after this conference has concluded its work, all these matters will be consolidated in one information bureau. If that takes place, then this vote will disappear and probably be absorbed in a general vote covering items of this character.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Are any reports from this Imperial Institute available at present?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: They have been available for eight years.

Mr. GORDON: I imagine there are reports, although I have seen them only when I have sought some special information. At times I have received information from the institute with respect to certain minerals. I have not seen any comprehensive annual report; I am not sure there is one.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not wish to be disrespectful, but as a matter of fact is the institute anything more than a post office, if I may so say, or a collection office through which are transmitted reports received from various parts of the empire? In other words, is a synopsis made of these reports and a new report published, or are just such pamphlets as are thought to be of use to some particular part of the empire transmitted through that office?

Mr. GORDON: I would not go so far as to say that it is merely a post office. It is essential, and the mining industry considers it essential, that information should be assembled from various parts of the empire showing what minerals they have in abundance, what minerals they are short of, what minerals we could export to them, what minerals we are short of and could get within the empire, and whether those mineral deposits have been developed or are capable of being turned into industry. Matters of that kind are assembled in the Imperial Institute and from time to time the Dominion of Canada has turned toward the institute for that information. Personally I believe the institute has been of more service to the colonies than to the dominions; that has been my view for some years, and I am not at all wedded to the continuance for any great period of time of this institute without a revision of its activities. As I said a few minutes ago, I believe after the conference to which I have referred these various activities will be co-ordinated, their expense reduced and their usefulness to those seeking information about various parts of the empire and their products increased.