

think however that the interest which would be taken in the province of Quebec in some other reports would really justify their publication in French. Certainly reports are now and have been for some time published in the French language, wherever, in the opinion of the department, they would usefully serve French speaking Canada. That practice, I think, is a proper one.

Mr. COOTE: I understand the minister to say, replying to the hon. member for Cariboo, that the first item here for geological explorations, surveys and investigations had been reduced by \$44,000 because it was the desire of the government to effect economy. But the previous vote which the committee passed, for administration under national defence, was reduced by one per cent whereas, in this geological surveys vote, the reduction of \$44,000 is equivalent to a 35 per cent cut, as compared with the amount voted last year.

I suggest that this is the wrong place to practice economy. It is false economy, at a time like this, to cut down the amount spent on geological surveys. The object of these survey parties is to explore new areas particularly for the purpose of discovering any minerals that exist therein, and I believe that this offers at the present time some hope for employment in new industries. I think we should encourage the opening up of new mineral areas in Canada.

I would express my appreciation of the service I have received from the geological surveys branch on different occasions; but this year when I inquired for certain maps of districts in the northwest territories I was informed that no surveys had yet been made of some of those districts. I think the government might very well increase rather than decrease the vote for surveys, particularly in that territory. Some new gold fields might be found, and the production of gold in Canada would help us to discharge the foreign debt which worries us so much.

Will the minister tell me how this vote of \$83,000 compares with the same vote for the last four or five years? Is not this a steady cutting-down of the amount spent on geological surveys, and after all is it not false economy? In what better way could the government spend money now than in opening up new mineral areas in Canada? Are there not districts in the Northwest Territories, where metals are now being discovered, in which the department has not yet made regular surveys and issued maps of the districts?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Mr. Chairman, in order to carry out the arrangement made on Friday night, I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Progress reported.

BUREAU FOR TRANSLATIONS

The house resumed from Friday, March 2, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cahan for the second reading of Bill No. 4, respecting the bureau for translations and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Chevrier.

Mr. HERMAS DESLAURIERS (St. Mary's) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, this measure known as the "Bureau for Translations Act" is submitted for our consideration, under the plea of economy and efficiency. The speeches, however, to which we have listened, proved that economy and efficiency were not at stake in this bill. Experience has shown that this system had been tried in other countries and found wanting.

I shall not, this evening, attempt to repeat the arguments presented to the house against this bill. I shall discuss another aspect of the question. Relying on my experience as a parliamentarian of long standing, may I state that it is an easy matter for me to observe, at present, that all conservative regimes when they apprehend that their end is near, always resort, before going out of office, to a reorganization scheme of this nature. Is it, this year as in the past, a sign of approaching elections? We expect so. Once, in the past, it was the civil service reorganization. As ever, with economy and efficiency of the service as their aim, the Civil Service Commission sprung up. This institution, as all know, is a great drag on the country and its mechanism has had an entire different result from the one expected. I had often the occasion of expressing my views on this institution and its effects. I shall, this evening, summarize my thoughts in this respect by stating again that it is an institution in which political influence, by indirect means, has its elbow-room and, in which the staff is recruited mostly on the grounds of friendship, relationship and sometimes loveliness. Owing to this institution, the prerogatives of the people have seen their prerogatives decrease and have been so checked that they can hardly be of service to those that have given them a mandate.

I am aware, and I have heard it stated, recently, in the house, that the question of patronage is held in horror by certain members. They prefer not to be pestered by