

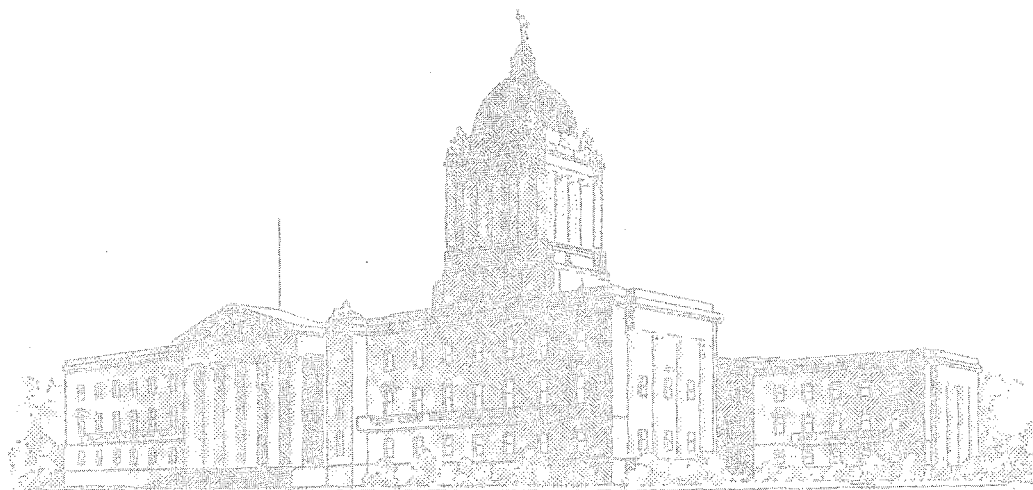


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



Volume IV No. 33A

March 3, 1960

2nd Session, 26th Legislature



THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Thursday, March 3rd, 1960

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department 9 (1) (a) -- passed.

MR. WITNEY: Now Mr. Chairman, just in speaking to some of the points that were drawn to our attention today by the honourable members, and I should like to thank them for their kind words and their ease with which they treated me at the beginning today.

I would like to just draw to your attention on this problem of the production of Lake Manitoba, that a total of 864 licenced fishermen operated on Lake Manitoba during this winter season and they had a total production to date of 4,000,000 pounds, and of the production 1,000,000 pounds would be pickerel and 850,000 pounds would be of saugers. As the honourable member mentioned they receive record prices of 20 to 37 cents per pound for the pickerel and the saugers 20 to 31 cents a pound. The heaviest catches were taken in the St. Laurent, St. Ambroise and the Delta districts during November and December. Some of the operators along the south shore of the lake were producing a daily catch, during the early stages of the season, which was valued up to \$100. to \$400. And then there was a decline in the production of the fish from Lake Manitoba, but as I understand, that is something which occurs every year and is some biological factor of the lake dealing with rust. I haven't checked what the production is now at the present time but I will do so and be able to give the honourable member any information I can obtain as to whether that production has gone back to where it was.

I was also very pleased to hear him express words of compliment to Mr. Tomasson, our fishermen's representative, for the work that he had done. He has worked hard during this past year and I shall be very pleased to extend the compliment from the honourable member to him.

With respect to the fish processing plant and the canning factory, that matter can be discussed under the Department of Industry and Commerce when their estimates come before the Committee.

As for the Sleeve Lake area and the wolves, I can assure the honourable members from that area that it will receive constant consideration. At the present time the cyanide bombs and the traps have been set from the west shore of Lake Winnipeg across to the east shore of Lake Manitoba and up to the east shore in the Lake Winnipegosis area. And whereas, as I pointed out in the opening remarks, we did have four -- or two professional hunters in that area. We now have three and I understand from the new one that he has now taken five to seven wolves, I believe, is the total that he has had.

The matter of skunks and raccoons, that matter will be brought in in an amendment by the Minister of Agriculture. And bounties for skunks and raccoons will be included in the Predator Control Acts which are administered by the Department of Agriculture, in an amendment to come before the House this session.

The problem that the honourable member spoke of so well with respect to waterfowl, the matter of waterfowl is under the constant supervisions of not only the Province of Manitoba but also the Federal Government and also the government of the United States. It is an international matter and the Federal Government assumes most of the responsibility for the control in the problems and the biological research into the problems of waterfowl. Now the recommendations of the province are sent to Ottawa along with recommendations from other provinces. Ottawa then reviews those recommendations and then submits its recommendations to the United States Government. And then all the provinces and the Federal Government and the United States get together to discuss the various problems with respect to waterfowl and determine the regulations which will be set in each area. The suggestions that have been made by the honourable member will be taken into account by our own branch at the time that our submissions are made to the Federal Government, and our recommendation.

I should like to at this time mention that we also take into consideration the work and the advice that the people at the Delta Waterfowl Station can give us. It's a very fine organization, as the honourable member knows, and it has been very helpful to our department. I have had the pleasure of being in their establishment, briefly I will admit, but I have had the pleasure of being in there twice and I have an open invitation to go back again which I hope to do in the near future.

On the subject that the Honourable Member from Fisher drew to our attention with respect to his difficulties in finding a place to enjoy a summer afternoon. As you are probably aware,

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) . . . the province took over natural resources in 1930, and I believe that the land that you refer to, all of that land was purchased from the Dominion Government as private land prior to the Provincial Government taking it over. As a result, it's private land and we have no jurisdiction over it at all. However, in any land which we purchase now or any land that we allow to be sold by navigable streams, we have a reservation where the land has to be kept for public use for 99 feet back from the shoreline of the stream -- or the navigable stream or the lake.

As for the submission of the Indian Affairs Resolutions which were drawn to our attention, I as yet have not received a copy of those resolutions, but they will be studied when they come in, and I have no doubt that when the Fishermen's Federation meet in March that the matter will be discussed by them and then we will have the benefit of the opinion of the fishermen as to that resolution.

The Honourable Member for St. John's referred to the mining royalties, and I think that I should point out to the committee here that with respect to oil, in Saskatchewan they have been fortunate there of having so much of their oil produced on Crown land, but here in Manitoba we have only about 17% of oil production on Crown land, and consequently, our revenue accrues from only 17% and the other 83% goes to the farmer who, I understand, is paid also on the basis of 12 1/2%. And of course because of that fact also, the Province of Saskatchewan has been able to benefit from mining fees and rentals, acreage rentals also. Here in Manitoba with only 17% on Crown land, we have not been able to have as much. Our royalty fee is set at 8%, that is quite true, but I would like to point out to the honourable member that we have had from these mining companies a great deal of exploration, and as a result of that exploration, we have two new mines now in Manitoba in Stall Lake and Chisel Lake as a result of exploration money that was spent by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited, and also the mining companies contribute a good deal of money toward the development of the townsite. And in the case of International Nickel, it has been recently in the neighbourhood of \$4,000,000 that they have contributed into the townsite. I think it's significant, Mr. Chairman, that when we take a look across the border into Saskatchewan, and I am from Saskatchewan and from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, but when we look across into those difficult areas of the Pre-cambrian Shield and we look into Manitoba and find that we have Flin Flon; we have Thompson; we have Lynn Lake, and we have Snow Lake; and we have those means of transportation and communication stretching well above our 54th parallel; and when we look into the Province of Saskatchewan and we see only Uranium City where they are operating under a federal agreement, I think that that fact should be taken into consideration when we are considering what we are getting out of our resources. I think that it is more important that we have development in the country than money in the bank, and certainly labour has benefited in that there is the sum of 2,900 men working at Flin Flon, and up at Lynn Lake, I am not too sure how many are working there. There are more men working in Snow Lake, and as a result of the exploration and development there instead of men being out of work as which would have happened had Snow Lake closed down, more work was provided. Thompson is expected to have a townsite there of some 5,000 people, I imagine, very soon. So I feel that we should take those into consideration when we are considering this matter of what we are obtaining from our royalties -- well, from our resources. As to the direct question as to what we are going to obtain from the International Nickel Co. this year, I'm sorry I can't say that yet until such times as they go into production.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, if I may interrupt a moment, I didn't ask for this year. I was wondering if the Minister could explain what the agreement provides as the company goes into production.

MR. WITNEY: Well the agreement will be under the Mining Act and all the details will be found there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1 (a) passed. (b) passed. 2 (a).

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Chairman, did the Minister indicate the number of salaries in this? I didn't get it. Maybe he did when I wasn't in.

MR. WITNEY: In the general office? Eighteen this year; 18 for last year.

MR. CAMPBELL: Could we have the number of salaries in 1, Mr. Chairman?

MR. WITNEY: In No. 1, in the Administration, we had 12 this year and 10 last year. We have had transferred from the Surveys Branch a Mechanical Engineer to send up to The Pas.

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.).... Since the department lost Water Resources we, in effect, lost our engineering arm and we have had to take this man on in order to aid with the engineering problems. The other salary is for a stenographer to keep up with the work of the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2 (a) - passed; (b) - passed; 3 (a) - passed; (b) - passed; (c) -

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Just what does this particular branch do? Would the Minister give us a breakdown of their activities?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, the Surveys Branch is generally responsible for the administration of the Surveys Act which takes in the surveying of forest blocks; the surveying of summer cottage sub-divisions in the recreational areas; retracement surveys during the past year. The Surveys Branch did work for townsite additions to Cranberry Portage and to Makefing. They also do some retracement surveys in the going back of the old surveys that were done, in cleaning them up and doing them over again, but their basic work at the present time is on the border between the North West Territories and Manitoba and the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border. They also do surveys for the Lands Branch for Crown lands and some other surveys, such as surveys for the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board, the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board pays them for those surveys, and other agencies of the government.

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Chairman, I believe during the past year Mr. Beresford, who is in charge of the branch, retired. Who has succeeded him? Is the successor taking over the job that Mr. Beresford held as Director of Surveys and controller of Town Planning?

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Ed Gauer has taken over as the Director of Surveys from Mr. Harry Beresford, and I'm very pleased that the honourable member mentioned Mr. Harry Beresford because the older members in this House will recall him. He was with the Department for 42 years and had built up a tremendous respect, not only among the various governments of Manitoba but also among people in the surveys activities throughout the Dominion. While we were sorry to see him go, he has well earned his rest.

MR. GUTTORMSON: ...two men looking after the work that he did? Or is his successor taking over all his duties?

MR. WITNEY: No, the successor has taken over all his duties as Director of the Surveys Branch.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister indicate what is the situation now so far as the boundaries of the province at the northern end North West Territories, Ontario, and so on. Is that all settled, all of it surveyed now?

MR. WITNEY: The boundary between Manitoba and Ontario has all been settled. The North West Territories boundary -- I could tell you I think exactly -- I think it's somewhere around 175 miles is to be completed; and in Saskatchewan the boundary is surveyed up past Flin Flon but there are some gaps in there, but the main job is from north of Flin Flon up to the North West Territories. It's deemed by the three governments advisable to do so as a result of the expansion into the north country.

MR. MOLGAT: ...there was a resurvey of the province going on, was there not? Down here in the southern part of the province the maps that we could obtain from the Broadway Buildings were on two types of scales. There was a small scale and a large scale, and I understand that it was to be completely resurveyed. Now was that being done by the province, or by the province in conjunction with the federal, or by the federal?

MR. WITNEY: No, I think those are called the retracement surveys and they're being done by the province.

MR. MOLGAT: ...is all that work, is all the southern end now on the one scale?

MR. WITNEY: No, I don't believe it is all completed at the present time. The Surveys Branch has been a branch that has been used by industry as a training ground under Mr. Beresford, and in the years that he was there he trained surveyors so well that we kept losing them, and so we are now fortunate though in having more university students take an interest in the branch, and we hope to speed up the work that has to be done in the work that you are suggesting.

MR. MOLGAT: How many surveyors are working on the project between Manitoba and the North West Territories?

MR. WITNEY: I'm sorry I don't have the information here at the present time but I'll obtain it for you.

MR. MOLGAT: Is most of this survey work being done on the ground or are we using aerial photography and aerial work to do all or part of it?

MR. WITNEY: No, it's done on the ground.

MR. CHAIRMAN:.....

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, there's one question I wanted to ask. I don't know what item it comes under. What item should we discuss the roads to resources program which we're sharing with the Federal Government?

MR. WITNEY: Roads to resources program. I think that will be a capital item and I believe it should be discussed with the Department of Public Works.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, on that matter last year the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources gave us a very long dissertation on the roads to resources, as I recall it under the estimates, and as I recall it, in this Department. Now he gave us certain figures last year and I'm rather surprised that this year it should be changed to another department. Now I'm not insisting that we should discuss it under Surveys but it seems to me that, if it was done here last year that we should be in the same position this year.

MR. WITNEY: I think possibly it can come up under the Capital Estimates when they come up before the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. GRAY: Before they adjourned this afternoon I had made some remarks in connection with the estimates and the Mines and Natural Resources. Whether I made an intelligent speech or not I have said something which I personally believe in, and I've also asked a few questions, and the Minister, the Honourable Minister replied a few minutes ago to all those who have spoken before we adjourned this afternoon, but I see that he has willingly, intentionally or otherwise ignored what I have said. However, this is history now -- two hours history, I never believe in history too much because we have so much to do today and forget about yesterday. So I'd like to ask him this question under the Mines Branch. One is the total amount that the province received from all the mine developments last year; secondly, what are the basis on which the royalties are received. I've tried to outline the system which they go by but I wasn't sure whether my information was correct, so now I would like the Honourable Minister to tell us; (1) the production; (2) the total amount we received from all the royalties, and (3) how are they based? In other words the royalties we receive, how are they based on the production of the mines?

MR. WITNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry if I appeared to ignore the Honourable gentleman. I didn't mean to do that today at all. I must have missed it in my notes, but I think that you will be able to find the figure that you are requesting from an order for return to the Honourable Member of Fisher which he will have available for you and it will all be listed in that order for return, the information which you wish. Broadly speaking, in oil it's 12 1/2% on the production at the wellhead, and in the mines and in the industrial minerals, broadly speaking, it's 8% of the net incomes.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, what is the proposed date of commencement for operation of the Inco mine and is the fire we had there recently going to delay it?

MR. WITNEY: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I don't know the proposed date of the operation of the Inco mine and I think that the fire at Kelsey did cause some slight delay but not a serious delay and in the department we are hoping that it will be in production before the end of the year.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Did I understand the Minister to say that Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting were opening up mines at Chisel Lake?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, they have two mines that they're opening up there, at Chisel and at Stall Lake just north of Snow Lake which will we hope come into production this year.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Have arrangements been made to transport the ore to Flin Flon for processing ?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Chisel Lake railroad which takes off from -- I just can't recall the name of the Lake but it's off the Lynn Lake line at any rate -- across to Snow Lake, that will be completed in time for the ore to come across. I believe some test ore has come over already on that railroad.

MR. GUTTORMSON: There is a rail line already built?

MR. WITNEY: Oh yes.

MR. PAULLEY: I might add too, Mr. Chairman, that if it wasn't for the railroad we wouldn't be developing the northern country, but I didn't rise to simply say that, but I only say that, Mr. Chairman, because I am a railroader, and very, very proud of the fact, and very, very proud of the contribution that the railroads are making to the development of northern Manitoba. I think it is a factor that sometimes is overlooked. Quite frequently we in the railroad industry or those of us connected with it are somewhat criticised because of high freight tariffs and the likes of that and that is one side of the question I appreciate. On the other hand, however, I think that the Minister -- in fact I'm sure that the Minister appreciates the extent to which the development of the country that he represents relies on the railroads in that development. Now I didn't rise as I said to say that, although I think that it is very appropriate at this particular time.

What I did rise to speak of, Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member for -- oh he must have, because he's left his seat now -- St. George has pursued the points that he wished to discuss at this time. I wonder what information the Minister can give us in respect of the situation in the oil fields of Manitoba in respect of the claims of many of the landowners in the areas in south-western Manitoba in respect of the method by which leases were obtained from farmers in the area in respect of oil. Now I appreciate the fact that we have received the report of the Northern Commission investigating land leases etc. of this particular area, and also I believe that on the tabling of that report that the Attorney-General or some member of the front bench's opposite informed the House that legislation would be forthcoming in respect or arising out of the report. I might say, Mr. Chairman, that on the receipt of that report I sent copies and maybe the Honourable the Attorney-General did likewise, sent copies to interested parties down in that particular section of the province. And I don't know what bearing this particular booklet that I have has on the general discussion of this topic but it appears now that the Virden Mines and Minerals Protective Association and the Mineral and Surface Right Owners Association in southwestern Manitoba have now produced a booklet titled "Oil and Natural Gas Lease Guide Booklet" for the information of any other farmer in the general area or where there is likely to be further exploration in respect of oil and natural gas. I don't know if the Honourable the Attorney-General has seen this particular booklet -- I only received it yesterday and quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I haven't had the time to study it -- but there is a notation on the top of the booklet and I would be pleased if the Honourable the Attorney-General, and I think this is more his field, because of the legalities of it than the Minister of Mines, but I feel that this is the proper place for me to bring this question up, there is a notation that this booklet has just been published recently but it doesn't solve the problems of the past and, if the Honourable the Attorney-General would just like to take a glance at it I would be pleased to let him have a look at it.

But accompanying the booklet Mr. Chairman, I received a letter from one of those that was affected to some degree at least, or one of the individuals in a particular area who has taken a very prominent part, in an attempt to have the situation cleaned up or cleared up -- not so much for the future because I think as a result of the publicity and the Norton Commission report that there is little likelihood of a repetition of what transpired in respect of the leases in the past. But I might say to the Honourable the Attorney-General, based on newspaper reports that the government was going to introduce legislation and if I recall correctly the legislation was going to be of a nature somewhat where the Province of Manitoba would be providing a consultive legal facilities (Interjection). Pardon. Yes -- in respect of those who may feel they're in a position that they do not have the facilities, financial particularly, to fight court cases in respect of their leases that those services will be provided.

Now I have before me and I would be glad to allow this to be tabled if desired by the Honourable the Attorney-General, although it is a personal letter, a communication from Melita in connection with this and with the permission of the committee, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to read some extracts from it. I think I can do that, Mr. Chairman, without even the permission of the committee it being different in the House. "Dear Mr. Paulley: Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Norton Commission Report that was tabled in the legislature on January 26th. The southwest Mineral Surface Right Owners Association held a meeting on February 8th and read the report. We also had six copies sent out to various districts for study. The Melita local of the Manitoba Farmer's Union also discussed the report. While we appreciate

(Mr. Pauley, cont'd.) . . . the efforts of the commission in regard to the hearings held of the Mineral Right Owners, Landowners, Trust Companies, Brokers, etc. we are of the opinion that the recommendations of the commission are not drastic enough as there was no doubt that fraudulent methods were used to secure one-half the mineral rights and the right to lease the remaining one-half interest for 99 years, for as low as \$40 per quarter section. The Inquiry Commission reveals that they paid landmen \$30 and \$40 per-quarter to get them to deceive the Mineral Right Owners. It does not recommend any punishment for fraud. The briefs sent in by our two organizations outlines most of these deceptive methods used. I believe I sent you a copy of the two briefs" -- which they did. Since the meeting which was held on February the 8th the letter goes on that a letter was written to the Honourable the Attorney-General and asked him if the commission accepts the recommendations of the commission. Well I understand, Mr. Chairman, that they did accept part of them. Now I'm not sure whether they did and that is my purpose at the present time.

The point that I'm really raising at the present time is that, is the department or the government going to attempt to restore to those landowners in which there appeared to be in evidence which was submitted to the Norton Commission, evidence of -- I don't think I should say fraudulent as this letter says, but sort of borderline, bordering between the two, of fraud or misrepresentation or some other qualified verbiage -- is the government going to attempt to have restored to the owners of the mineral rights in this particular area their -- put them in their original status? I think this is very pertinent because it does seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that in respect of these oil leases that it has been established that in some cases through the method of approach, and we found, if I recall correctly in the Norton Commission, where individuals took bank affidavits without the spouse of the individual being present in accordance with the regulations under the Commissioner Dower Act, and also in connection with the regulations laid down as to how a commissioner of oaths must conduct himself and the likes of this. Now then, that having been revealed, is there not a case for those persons, who signed leases under these conditions, having restored to them their full rights that they had prior to this, automatically? It does appear to me from what I can gather, Mr. Chairman, that in respect of some of the cases where there may be legal -- only through legal recourse that their rights may be obtained back to them, that in order to facilitate the economic aspects of the legal fight that the government is prepared to supply that legal advice or to pay part of the cost. But it does appear to me that in addition to that there are cases where leases were signed up and revealed, and apparently to the satisfaction of the Norton Commission, without being done properly. Is the department of the Attorney-General or the Province of Manitoba going to make an attempt to have them set aside because they were not done in the proper manner? To what overall degree in the broad field, or the broad area where these cases apply -- I do not know at the present time -- but it does appear to me that because of the fact that the people in this particular area, only through their initiative, have drawn this matter to the forefront and revealed where they may have been some fraudulent -- yes, some fraudulent methods to obtain these leases, that in all of those cases where it has been done they should be restored I think forthwith. And in those cases where commissioners of oaths or -- what is it they call them? The chaps that went around -- the landmen -- where they did not and where it has been proven apparently to the satisfaction of the commission, as I gather on the admission of the landmen themselves that they didn't bother with these things, is the government going to forthwith return to those individuals that signed on those basis or without the law being fully fulfilled, are they going to return their rights to them?

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I think this is one portion of the estimates of the Minister of Mines where I might step in -- not give him a hand because I think he is doing extremely well without me, but perhaps give a few facts which would elucidate the subject which the Leader of the CCF has raised. It will be appreciated that the Norton Commission, which was appointed last year to look into this situation, was looking into a situation which by and large was at that time approximately 8 years old, the bulk of these leases, as I understand it from my recollection of the report not having it in front of me, the bulk of these leases having been entered into some-time in 1951 and 1952 thereabout. I may say that the Province of Saskatchewan had a similar type of commission into this problem in Saskatchewan which the Honourable Leader of the CCF is probably aware of. Their commission concluded its hearings and made its final report to the



(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.)....Attorney-General in Saskatchewan and I think it was in November or December of 1958 I received a report from my counterpart in Saskatchewan after he had gotten it, and following upon the heels of that report, the review of that situation in Saskatchewan, which I must say was considerably more widespread than it was in Manitoba, we then had a similar commission set up in Manitoba and this report was forthcoming which was tabled in the early days of this session.

Now I think first of all the points that should be remembered about the report are these, and I stand subject to correction on figures because I don't have the report with me and I am only going from memory, I think there were some 112 cases that Mr. Norton, the commissioner, mentioned in his report as having come to his attention and which he felt there had been some either fraudulent -- or some other kind of misrepresentation had been used in connection with the obtaining of mineral leases. Again I don't have the benefit of the figures, but he set down the percentage that these cases represented of the total leasing that was done in the area, and of course it was, I won't say a negligible percentage, but it was a very small percentage considering the volume of leasing that was going on in that territory at that time. He mentioned in some detail and outlined the mechanics of how the land men work; and how they were acting as agents for brokers, by and large, not as direct agents for oil exploration companies but rather as agents for brokers who would then in turn sell these leases to exploration companies. And in some case of course these leases now have passed into as many as three or four different hands, having gone down the steps.

Now I think the nub of the question asked by the Leader of the CCF is this, does the government propose to enact any legislation of a blanket nature which would restore the status quo or restore the mineral rights to these persons whom the Norton Commission felt might have been defrauded? Well I can only say in response to that that type of blanket or sweeping legislation was not recommended in the Saskatchewan report; was not recommended in the Manitoba report; and therefore, first of all, we don't have that type of recommendation before us. I can only conclude from a close reading of the two reports that -- it was one of the Superior Justices in Saskatchewan who made the Saskatchewan report, and he recommended against it and Mr. Norton our commissioner recommended against it, pretty well for the selfsame reason, that there might be greater hardship result from this type of blanket legislation than indeed had occurred from the misrepresentation that did crop up in certain isolated cases in the leasing practices in 1951. In other words, the point being that for every one lease in which there might have been misrepresentation there were probably, what can we say, 2, 3, 400, 500 or 1,000 which were properly entered into by landmen who were aware of the propriety of their duties as the commissioners for oaths and so on. So I think that the likelihood of any blanket legislation of that type is extremely negligible because we do not have such a recommendation facing us in the report.

But what the commissioner in Manitoba did recommend was that the Government of Manitoba should give consideration to legal assistance of some sort to these 112-odd farmers by and large who had suffered as a result of the leasing practices carried on some eight years ago, and the best I can say on that point of course is that that is still receiving consideration from us. I think it was mentioned by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition the other day, during the course of my estimates, that this is a very interesting recommendation but one which would create a very interesting precedent as well when the government moves into the field of, shall we say, socialized legal advice for want of a better term -- subsidized legal advice for a certain portion of the Manitoba community. Nonetheless, that is the recommendation that has been made by the commissioner and I think his report by and large is a good report and I can only say that we are giving it most serious consideration. But it is a bit of a thorny problem when you consider that I think there are still some 60 to 90 cases in litigation or outstanding where farmers have gone to their own counsel, largely in Brandon I think it is, and have initiated statements of claim against the trust companies which were acting as lease brokers back in 1951. So that is a thorny problem and it is one which is receiving our consideration at the present time. It's not one of course which will require any legislation. It is a question merely of administrative policy as to whether or not this should be done.

In the statutory field there were 3 or 4 or 5, I think, specific recommendation. One was that dower consent taken with respect to the alienation of mineral right should be taken before

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.)....either a barrister-at-law or a notary public, as I recall the recommendation. Another one was, and this is again in the administrative field, that the commissioners for oaths should receive better instruction in their duty. A third one was that by implication that the statute of limitations of Manitoba should be extended in order to permit those persons whose time had now expired, to permit those persons to begin actions so that the right which they had lost by virtue of the statute of limitations would be extended. And another one had to do I think, with the bonding and licensing of these landmen, who might conceivably again be active in this field in Manitoba. Now as I mentioned on the tabling of the report, there will be legislation forthcoming on certain of the recommendations where legislation is required. I can't give the details of it of course until it is before the House, but I would hope we would be giving first reading to these Bills, I think probably by sometime next week, based upon the recommendations of the Norton Commission.

The other matter, the administrative matter, as to whether or not the government will subsidize counsel to assist these people is something that is still receiving consideration. It's something that present obvious problems however, as the persons who have already gone to counsel -- some of them have gone to counsel, sued the defendants and have won; some have gone to counsel, sued the defendants and lost; and they have done this on their own resources. So we are now coming in more or less after the fact with the commission, and they are saying that some type of assistance might be considered in these cases.

Now there was one further point that I think was mentioned by the Leader of the CCF. Oh, I was going to refer to the situation in Saskatchewan. There, there was not the same type of recommendation. In Saskatchewan the commission, as I recall, recommended that a board of arbitration be established, and I understand that this was done. Farmers who felt that their rights had been fraudulently taken away from them could go to this board of arbitration which would act as an arbitrator or a middleman between the farmer and the ultimate defendant. I haven't had any reports from the Honourable Mr. Walker in Saskatchewan as to how this scheme is working out, but I do know from one conversation that I had with him, a very brief conversation, that it was thought to be a rather cumbersome means but, nonetheless, it was adopted in Saskatchewan. The latest report, I think Mr. Norton himself visited in Saskatchewan, spoke to the chairman of the Saskatchewan commission and saw the arbitration board in operation there. But that, if I may say so, didn't go quite so far as the Norton recommendation because it was then the setting up only of a board which would arbitrate between the parties. These cases -- one I think recently went to the Supreme Court, and if my memory serves me and lawyers always remember the facts of cases and generally the principle of law, but then they always forget who won or lost, that seems to be the point that escapes our mind -- but I know one of these cases recently went to the Supreme Court, and if memory serves me correctly, I think the farmer lost. After having won in the trial court and in the appeal court, went to the Supreme Court and his case was turned down by the Supreme Court. So it is a thorny problem. There are cases where, notwithstanding the fact that due formality was not observed in connection with the taking of the dower consent, nonetheless, the courts have held in the odd case that the lack of this formality didn't negative the lease and so on and so forth.

I don't think I can give too much more on the situation at the present time except to reiterate again that legislation will be forthcoming, and I hope it will appear on the Order Paper probably some time next week.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable the Attorney-General wouldn't be surprised if I said to him don't pay too much attention to the question of setting a precedent insofar as the supplying of legal advice to these people. I'm not a bit surprised to hear that my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition had suggested caution in this regard because of the fact you may not know where you go once this has been established. -- (Interjection)-- The Attorney-General brought you into it, not me. --(Interjection)-- You brought yourself -- that's right too. You brought yourself into it the other day. But it does appear to me that notwithstanding what is happening or what has happened in Saskatchewan -- now I quite frequently stand in this House and notwithstanding the fact that they have a government which I admire, whose fundamental policies that I admire, in Saskatchewan -- I have often stood in this House and I suppose I often will, at least while I'm here, and say that everything that happens in there in Saskatchewan isn't right. So I say, notwithstanding what procedure they adopted in Saskatchewan,

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.)....it shouldn't necessarily because they've established it there in this field, be the method which we should here in Manitoba. It seems to me, and this may be a little facetious, where it seems to generally follow the line of thinking of my honourable friend opposite, the Attorney-General, well it's okay; if it's something of a different nature, well, it's not so hot.

MR. ROBLIN: That works both ways.

MR. PAULLEY: It does work both ways, Mr. Premier, it does work both ways, it's true. But it does appear to me, and I appreciate the fact that the Attorney General has outlined in respect of these cases, that there have been a number of cases brought before the courts by individuals and some have won and some have lost. There is no question. And I read with interest, too, the case that he was referring to that went through the courts to the Supreme Court of Canada, and I like him just forget who did win. It was my impression that eventually the farmer won; his impression that the trust company won. But it does appear to me that in respect of the supplying of legal assistance to these farmers who have been deprived of their rights, that the government would not be establishing too much of a precedent if they did accept the recommendation, in part, of the commission, to supply that irrespective of the cases that have been handled by the individuals. Because I think that the Attorney-General will agree with me that there has been sufficient evidence even in those cases, whether they have been won or lost, that have been initiated, that there has been established sufficient evidence that many or some of the people there, through questionable methods, have been deprived of their rights.

Now I would like to ask the Attorney-General this question. Was any, and I appreciate the fact that most of this took place before my honourable friend was Attorney-General or that the Conservative government was in power in Manitoba, that most of this took place prior to that time, but I would like to ask my honourable friend if any action has been taken to discipline those individuals who did not live up to their obligations in respect of the law, either as commissioners of oath or solicitors or otherwise, who did not live up to the law in respect of obtaining these leases? Because information conveyed to me indicates that in many cases, and I believe the Norton Commission draws this point to our attention, that in some cases even though the landman himself was ignorant of the law those individuals for whom the landman was working should not have been ignorant of the law. And my question at this time, Mr. Chairman, would be: has any disciplinary action been taken by the Attorney-General's Department, whether present or previous, in respect of that aspect of this whole question?

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I can't presume to speak for my predecessor, and in fairness to him I think it should be said that he probably didn't have available to him the facts that we now have as a result of the Norton Commission, so I doubt very much although I stand subject to correction by him, I doubt very much if there was any disciplinary action taken against any of these persons because, as you will recall from reading the report, a good number of them were what might loosely be called transient in the sense that they can in to this province for a specified purpose, obtained a pass from the commissioner, went and did their jobs and returned say to Saskatchewan or to Alberta or from wherever they originated. Some of the people -- a few of them are still in Manitoba. When I spoke, I remember on one occasion asking the Chairman if he would particularly pay attention to any of the evidence that came before him with a view to recommending to the department that any criminal action be taken. Now to date there has been no such recommendation forthcoming from the Chairman. I think he felt that on the basis of the evidence he had he really didn't feel that there was any one case where that type of fraudulent misrepresentation, which would result in a charge or would result in the prosecution of a successful charge of fraud, that really came before him. I haven't really had the opportunity since the House was sitting to go over some of the documents with him that I know he has in his possession, some of the evidence that came in to his possession at the time of the Commission hearing.

Now referring back to the main point again as to whether or not blanket legislation would be introduced and the feeling of the Leader of the CCF that this should be done, there is a paragraph in the Commission report which speaks on this subject much more fluently and much more carefully perhaps than I could, if I could just put my hand on it. I think it's on Page 14. This is the first one that comes to hand in any case. It says: "During the course of the commission written briefs were submitted by the Southwest Mineral and Surface Rights Owners'

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.) . . . Association and the Melita local of the Manitoba Farmers' Union recommending, among other things, the wholesale cancellation by legislation of the contract in dispute and future restrictions on contractual rights of parties obtaining mineral interests either by purchase of royalties or title to mines and minerals." And then he goes on to say, "The Melita local recommended that legislation be enacted prohibiting further sale of mineral rights in the province" and so on. -- (Interjection)-- Page 14, I'm reading about the centre of the page, "The implementation of wholesale cancellation of contracts and legislation placing restrictions on contractual rights would, in the opinion of the Commission, be contrary to the principles of freedom and the sanctity of the right of contract. This principle of freedom and sanctity of the right of contract. This principle of freedom and sanctity of contract has played a large part in the development of the economy of this country and is basic to the social and economic function of our society. The Legislatures have only interfered where persons, by virtue of their status, require such protection." And then he carries on. This is further on and I'm leaving out a portion, "In the opinion of the Commission it would be a disastrous blow to the future development of mineral resources in the province if such persons who supplied the financial support were arbitrarily deprived of their rights so acquired. In the opinion of the Commission the future development of the province would be impeded by the wholesale cancellation of contracts or rectification, and would do incalculable damage to the public interest having in mind the vital importance of the development of natural resources in the province. In addition, it must be kept in mind that the complaints registered before the commission represented disputes involving approximately 30,000 acres, whereas the Commission heard evidence that mineral interests had been acquired in approximately 1,433,000 acres under the same type of contract as those involved in the dispute. Therefore, wholesale cancellation of the existing contracts might well effect the balance of similar contracts where there's no justification for such action." And then it carries on, I don't think I need continue to pare it from the report. I may say, and again I'm speaking from recollection, the wording in the Saskatchewan report I think was much more definite on that point than perhaps our commissioner has been, but the principle underlying their thinking was the same in Saskatchewan as it is here.

And then again, and I just overlooked to mention this point, then again we must keep this factor in mind. Blanket legislation presumes that all cases were exactly the same; that the same tactics were used by the landmen; that there was the same response of lack of knowledge on the part of the innocent farmer; and so on and so forth; whereas in actual fact each case must be dealt with as a separate entity. Each case, I would suggest, must be dealt with by the court on the basis of its own facts. And therein lies the great danger of blanket legislation in a field like this, because you can very seriously rupture the rights of somebody who obtained these rights quite legally; very seriously rupture those rights in your well-intended move to bring relief or succor to those people who were actually defrauded of their rights. And so you have to particularize to the point of perhaps having each of these cases go before a court or before a board of arbitration as they did in Saskatchewan; have the facts in each case sifted out to determine whether or not there was in fact a misrepresentation of the type that occurred. That I think is the great advantage that the system which was recommended in Saskatchewan, and the system which is recommended here has over blanket legislation. It does not deprive the farmer of the right to seek redress but it does say that blanket legislation is not the way to do it. The way to do it they say in both provinces is by each farmer going either to a board of arbitration or to a court where his individual case can be properly assessed and individual redress given to the farmer if that redress appears desirable or necessary in the circumstances of the case. I don't think there's anything much more I could say upon the point, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say one word in connection with the blanket legislation. I don't think that the Southwestern Mineral Surface Rights Association had in mind when they were talking of blanket legislation that all of the leases for the whole area should be terminated. I think what they had in mind is that in these cases that have been brought before the commission and which are under litigation or were considered for litigation, that in those cases that there should have been blanket legislation applied. I'm pretty sure that they didn't mean that the whole area through blankets -- in the agreements in the whole area. I think that generally their thought was that it should be done in respect of those in which there were the complaints. I'm sure that they appreciate, as I do, the remarks of the Honourable the

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.)....Attorney-General that blanket legislation which would apply to the whole area and in the whole field would be detrimental to the further development of the natural resources in Manitoba; and I agree with that most heartily. It may be, Mr. Chairman, that there could be some consideration for a combination of the two methods; that of Saskatchewan which the Minister mentions being arbitration and the other through legal action in the courts. It might be advisable, and I just make this as a suggestion for what it is worth, that where these cases are drawn to the attention of the Minister either through the commission or directly, that attempts be made through arbitration between the former holder of the rights and those who possess them now or who obtained them to establish whether there's any basis for further court action in consultation or arbitration, and then, if in the opinion of the department, if the situation isn't resolved and it seems that as a result of arbitration there is a definite case for legal action then that be taken. I just throw that in as a suggestion, it may not have much merit but I think that consideration should be given to it.

Again I say to the Attorney-General and to the government that irrespective of the fact that this may only apply to a relatively few individuals, it has caused consternation among them and I sincerely trust and hope -- and the Minister has suggested that there will be legislation forthcoming out of the recommendations of the Commission -- that I fully trust and hope that in any future development of this nature, and I say quite readily that one can appreciate the spontaneous growth of this particular industry in that area at the particular time that caution may have been thrown aside, but I sincerely trust and hope that as a result of this, two things: that those who did lose their rights by any fraudulent method which can be proven will have them restored; and that as a result of this in no other area in the province will the same thing be able to happen again. And just winding up the thing I do hope that the Attorney-General and the government do take action as quickly as possible to clean up the situation and to supply to those worthy or desiring of it the legal personnel necessary in order that their just rights, if established, can be restored to them.

MR. E. I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): One question that has not come out in the Norton Report or in the debate so far in regards to mineral rights that is a recurring factor that is developing year by year and may go on for some years to come, is the fact that the standard contracts ..... by the standard -- and I call them legitimate oil contracts, are sold on a ten-year basis renewable at the option of that company; and the contracts that are the controversial type, if you wish to call them such, are the ones that come in after the standard contract has been dropped. Now in many cases down in the south-west corner this is recurring and coming up as the standard contracts are being dropped by the major companies and not only the oil rights and monies received is at stake but I think the Attorney-General will appreciate this, that particularly in the southwest corner there's a lot of land that is on the old system. And I know that over the years that the various land title's departments and so forth have been trying to get this into a new system, and it's when the new titles are being applied for that these caveats show up and it is a kind of a thorn in the flesh. And I'm wondering, Sir, if there isn't something that the legislature can do in regards to , even if it's to assist to bring these into the new system, if there's some way that they can handle that caveat to bring it out of the old system into the new, because that seems to be one of the big problems that the farmers have in regards to -- that they got into trouble -- and I must agree with the remarks that have been made -- fraudulently -- because I live in that country and I know it. But regardless of that the farmer is still the victim of this manipulation and now holds a piece of property -- a title to a piece of property under the old system and now he wishes to do something with it and he would like to get it under the new system and this caveat just can't be released for the dollars that was put in to put it there. I'm wondering if some type of legislation couldn't be enacted through the department that might assist these farmers in getting that title out of the old system into the new on account of that caveat. It seems in the information that I've had, to me that the so-called people that are holding these second contracts, as I call them, they're reluctant unless there's a sum of money involved to release that caveat. I'm not a legal man and I don't know the process of doing it but I understand it's quite a difficult problem to get a new system title with that hanging on the old system. And I was wondering if something like that couldn't be done, Sir?

MR. LYON: The Honourable Member from Turtle Mountain, Mr. Chairman, raises a very interesting and a real point and a real problem in this connection. It is unfortunate that

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.).....some of the pieces of land -- I don't have a breakdown of the figures-- but a considerable amount of the land in that area as in different parts of the province still is under the old system and for the life of me I can't see why anybody would keep land under the old system which is an unguaranteed title, when for a comparatively few dollars in relation to the value of the land that land can be brought under the new system and a guaranteed title, title guaranteed by the province and all of its resources, can be obtained on the self same land. I'm not aware of the problem of caveats being a hindrance to the bringing of the land under the new system but certainly we can check into that. My own experience has been that if a caveat exists on land under the old system you bring the land under the new system subject to the same caveat and of course, and it's registered as a document under the new system. But if there is a problem arising there, certainly I would like to have instances of it. If the honourable member could give them to me at some later time we can certainly look into them and just see what the problem is there and if there is anything we can do to expedite or help certainly we will give every consideration to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. GUTTORMSON: There have been indications to me, and I don't know how factual they are that the visible supply of ore at Flin Flon is dwindling. Can the Minister indicate whether this is a fact or not, and, if so, how many years they think they have left to go?

MR. WITNEY: Well I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I haven't got that information at hand. I think it could be obtained though from the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, Limited.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Has the Minister heard anything to this effect that the visible ore body is dwindling in Flin Flon?

MR. WITNEY: Well, the ore is dwindling, yes, because it's a non-renewable asset. But through the company's heavy exploration program that they engage in, in their regular activities, they keep turning up new ore bodies such as the ore body at Chisel and the ore body at Stall Lake which will be feeding the Flin Flon smelter. They have also during the past year or two reopened the Shift Lake mine for ore and they have recently had success in the find, I understand, in the Osborne Lake area. So while the ore is dwindling because we can't renew it, the exploration policy of the company is such that I don't think there is anything to fear in Flin Flon not being there for some years to come. As a matter of fact, I expect it will be there long after my time.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Newspaper reports have indicated that there are good prospects of claims between Wekusko to God's Lake. Are there any prospects of mines being located in that particular area, and are these reports well founded?

MR. WITNEY: Did the honourable member say "clay"?

MR. GUTTORMSON: No, I say claims between -- are reported to be good between Wekusko, I think that's the pronunciation, and God's Lake.

MR. WITNEY: Well I wouldn't like to say whether or not a mine will be found there but I think the level of activity in that area in explorations certainly indicate that they must have some very interesting finds and are worthy of the amount of activity that is prevalent at the present time.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Has the Minister or his department done anything about the checkerboarding of oil in the southwest corner of the province? Members of House who were here prior to the days of the new government will well remember the frequent speeches made by the First Minister regarding checkerboarding and what should be done in that nature. I wonder if the government is doing anything along those lines now?

MR. WITNEY: All reservations, Mr. Chairman, that are granted now have to be on a checkerboard basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. J. M. HAWRYLUK (Burrows): It was very interesting to hear the dissertations regarding the problems that can come about with anybody having a prospective oil well on their land, but there are a few questions I would like to ask: How many oil wells have been drilled to date; how many are producing oil at present; and how many barrels of oil is produced per day; and are there any other prospects of any oil being found in any part of Manitoba at the present time?

MR. WITNEY: Well, approximately 1,500 wells have been drilled to date and of these approximately 1,000 wells have been produced, and 16 wildcat wells have operated during the

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.).....past year and exploration is continuing in the area, and as long as this exploration is being carried out there is always the possibility that we will find new wells.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. WRIGHT: I wonder if the Minister would be kind enough to tell us about the experiment that is going on around Selkirk, Manitoba. I understand that two holes have been drilled through several hundred feet of the limestone in that area down to the pre-cambrian rock and I'm interested to know just what it is they're looking for there?

MR. WITNEY: I couldn't tell you just what it is they're looking for, Mr. Chairman. I know that they have done work in the Selkirk area; they have drilled three holes. As a matter of fact it's a result of the geophysical work done through the limestone that covers the pre-cambrian in that area and in the holes they have found greenstone which is a mineral producing rock.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister was speaking about the new mine developing in the north which will keep the smelter in Flin Flon going. What type of minerals is being mined in these — the same as at Flin Flon or are there new types?

MR. WITNEY: No, they are the same as at Flin Flon, copper and zinc.

MR. MOLGAT: Could the Minister give us some indication of what's going on now in this Bird Lake, Cat Lake, Bissett area? There was considerable exploration and a great deal of training work going on there a few years ago; now it seems that the activity has been very substantially reduced. Could he give us some idea of what are the prospects there?

MR. WITNEY: There's not a good deal of activity going on in that area at the present time. There has been work done on the copper, nickel mine at Cat Lake where a deposit was reported to contain two million tons grading it 0.3 per cent nickel and 0.75 per cent copper. The company stated that it had plans to recover iron and sulphur as well as the copper and the nickel from the ore in an attempt to achieve a profitable operation. Associated with the "New Manitoba" in the venture during the past year was the Border Chemical Company Limited but by the end of the year there has been no action taken toward the reopening of the mine.

MR. MOLGAT: What mines are active now in that part of the country? There is the one at Bissett; what else is there going on now in actual mining activity there?

MR. WITNEY: The Montgary Mine, the shafts have been altered during the year and they are now carrying out mineralogy investigations on the complicated ore that they have at the base there which contains lithium, beryl, some tin, and this rare metal called caesium and also quartz, pollucite, spodumene -- it's quite a complicated ore. I was there just awhile ago and watched the mineralogists at work. The San Antonio mine of course, is digging deeper as a result of finds that they have made, but those are the only two mines that are active in the area.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would explain why the item 4 (c) is down so much? Is the province not spending money on exploration? Is it all being left to the private companies or what is the situation?

MR. WITNEY: There was an item in there during the last estimates, Mr. Chairman, for \$40,000 for exploration but then it was decided at the Mines Ministers' Conference that they would seek through the Federal Government a joint plan that the provinces and the Federal Government would operate upon. No action on that was taken until the last Mines Ministers' Conference and the Mines Ministers have presented a proposition to the Dominion Government. So far we have not heard just what the Federal Government are intending to do but if they are prepared to go on a co-operative scheme with the provinces in exploration of the area, then we will be able to pick it up next year and benefit from it and it will be a five to ten year program.

MR. ORLIKOW: ..... on stone.

MR. WITNEY: The Province will be having seven geological survey parties in the field as they had last year, and we have had an increase - or more geological parties coming in to the area this year from the Dominion Government.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, what is the department doing by way of aerial surveys?

MR. WITNEY: Well the \$40,000 that I referred to was for aerial magnetic surveying and we are now waiting to see whether the Federal Government are going to join in the plan with the provinces to aeromagnetic survey the area.

MR. GUTTORMSON: In what area was the survey conducted?

MR. WITNEY: Aeromagnetic surveying has been conducted up in the top portion of the province right up above the 58th parallel up to the 60th parallel and some of it has been conducted down in the southeast corner and there are roughly five blocks to be finished in Manitoba of some 700,000 line miles and we are hoping that if the Mines Ministers are successful, that we will be able to finish off those blocks within the next few years on aeromagnetic survey with the Federal Government.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us the numbers covered here by salaries and I don't believe we got it under item (3) Surveys Branch either, I wonder if he could. . . .

MR. WITNEY: I beg your pardon, I didn't quite get the question.

MR. GUTTORMSON: The numbers of people involved here in the item, Salaries under Mines Branch. . . .

MR. WITNEY: 55.

MR. GUTTORMSON: 55? I did not get the Surveys Branch on salaries?

MR. WITNEY: 28 and 27. We increased that by one, we brought in a draftsman to help with the backlog of work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . . .

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, for the past three sessions at this stage I've gone into considerable detail on the need for fireguards, firetrails, brushing and trails for reforestation through particularly the southeast area but for all of the forest areas of Manitoba. But I'd like to refer particularly at this time without going into the same detail, to the announcements made by the then Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, the present Minister of Industry and Commerce, in the early winter of 1958 when he announced a whole new program of cutting fireguards, firetrails, employing a larger number of people in the forest areas particularly in the southeast and the reforestation expansion, and I find it quite disappointing to find that generally speaking there isn't any increase in appropriation for this type of work, and based on firsthand experience and knowledge of the area, I find it disappointing as I reported to the House a month ago, that there aren't any persons being employed in the forests of the southeast at the present time other than the full-time employees of forest rangers and so forth. There aren't any persons being employed cutting fireguards and haven't been for four months, and there aren't any persons being employed burning brush, cutting brush, cutting trails through the woods and all these jobs that can be done so well this particular winter.

I can think especially at this time of speeches I have heard delivered by the First Minister in speaking to the Eastern Manitoba Development Board one time at Pine Falls only about a year ago, and the people in Hadashville are still talking about the speech delivered by the then Minister of Mines and Natural Resources last June in Hadashville — May I believe, and on both occasions it was the plans of increasing the work to be done in the forest areas, the increase in the amount of reforestation, the increase in the number of firetrails that were to be cut, the brushing to be done and the general work of fire guards through this area to be done. The glowing accounts given at those times of the increase that this government was going to follow in rebuilding this branch of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources has sort of, at least in my opinion, fallen on its face, because we can take this department and look at the appropriations this year and last year and the year before and find that actually the increase in the cost of doing this work which is natural as costs of most of this type of thing are increasing, is all the increase that is being shown? There is a small increase and I'm pleased to see this, particularly in the actual reforestation program because the forestry station is naturally growing in size, but I notice for instance here under (c) of this number 5 item a large decrease in the amount of equipment, maintenance and replacement. The allocation has been decreased, and it is considerably smaller than it was in 1959. And once again based on firsthand experience and knowledge of this area and the equipment these men are using, I know that they are short of equipment in the area. There are several tractors, caterpillars standing still because they are broken down. There are machines to be used in reforestation in the area that aren't in top working order, and they have, I know, been asking for more machinery for this reforestation plan and apparently have been turned down. So we have this confusing situation where government members over the past 18 months have been telling the people in this area and the people of Manitoba as a whole, that they are increasing



(Mr. Roberts, continued)... the amount of expenditure in this area by great leaps and bounds, that they're going to do more and more towards rebuilding our forest areas, and then first by looking at these estimates and the figures they show, and by going into the area as I have done in the past few weeks and looking at the situation, I see that absolutely nothing is being done at the present time and apparently the appropriation or the plans are not much better.

I really find this disappointing, people of the area find it disappointing and I do think it's a mistake because I think that there is nowhere that money can be more wisely invested to the benefit of all the people of Manitoba than in this type of an area where we have such tremendous resources that are gradually being depleted because of poor management and are certainly not bearing anywhere near the revenue that they could be bearing to the province. I wish the Minister would pass a few comments on the situation.

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, the honourable gentleman made some very interesting remarks. I think that the department has been taking good action in the southeast corner of Manitoba. Most of the reforestation program that we have had during the past year has gone into that area and certainly it is on the top of the list for reforestation programs this year. We have experimented in there with this scarification and pellet-seeding program which has proven, as I mentioned this afternoon, to be quite successful. We trust that it will help to rejuvenate the forest industry there by allowing us to plant more trees in a faster and more economic manner. We are spending \$9,500 this winter on trail clearing; we have recreational developments going on in the Moose Lake area and we are doing some building of our forestry homes in Piney and Hadashville. The past year, when we had a forestry access road program with the Dominion Government, we worked very heavily in that area but we haven't got a forestry access program with the Dominion Government this year and the facts are that we had cleared more during the time that we had the program than we have money now to construct in 1960. But that matter has been discussed briefly with the Minister of National Resources of Northern Affairs in Ottawa and possibly in 1960, we will have our forest access program back again. So I feel that with the work that we are doing in reforestation and as I mentioned, most of our reforestation output from the Vinelands Nursery has gone into that area. We have done considerable work there in scarification and in sanitation cutting. We have increased our forest fire protection in the area. I believe that we have another tower going up there this year. I don't believe that the department is doing as little as the honourable member contends.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, what arrangements has the government made to provide a sustained yield from the forest area adjacent to the Pine Falls paper mill?

MR. WITNEY: Adjacent to the Pine Falls Paper Mill? Is it in the Pine Falls paper berth?

MR. GUTTORMSON: Yes.

MR. WITNEY: Well, the Pine Falls Paper Company are operating on a sustained yield basis on their own in that area with the assistance and with the approval of the Forestry Branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . . .

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, is it established that the Pine Falls Mill could run indefinitely with timber coming in this year?

MR. WITNEY: Can the Pine Falls mill run indefinitely, is that the question?

MR. GUTTORMSON: Yes, with timber coming from that area, around where they draw their timber from.

MR. WITNEY: Well, they are still working on their main block and they have other blocks in the other areas where they will be able to operate from and they have also been buying a fair amount of their products from outside of their timber berths, and while you say indefinitely -- that's rather a very long time -- I certainly don't feel that there's any danger of them running out of timber material for many years to come.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, following the comments of my colleague, the Member for La Verendrye, I appreciate the position of the Minister and I certainly don't blame him in the least for this. He came into this department not too long ago and acquired, on coming in, the promises that had been made by his predecessors and by the leader of his party, so I don't suggest here that the fault lies with him. But I certainly have to agree completely with the statements made by my colleague and by the leader of his party, so I don't suggest here that the fault lies with him, but I certainly have to agree completely with the statements made by my

(Mr. Molgat, continued)... colleague that this department -- in fact I would say that this by and large, goes for the whole of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources -- and certainly for this particular department, that the work that is being done here is simply the same work that was being done before by the previous administration. It's simply a continuation of the same programs with, I can see, no expansion. As a matter of fact, I would guess that with the increases in salaries and so on that what little increase there is here is pretty well taken up in that field. Now our point is this, that my honourable friends across there, made many promises about all the great plans that they had for development; all the great things they were going to do in the field of forestry and all the rest of them, and as I say, I repeat, the present Minister is not the one who is to blame for this, he inherited this and I'm sure that he has tried his best to see to it that the promises that have been made are being lived up to. But I don't think that they are and I think when we look at these estimates we see exactly what's been going on. My honourable friends have found that the . . .

MR. EVANS: I think I might set my honourable friend's mind at rest a little bit. The troubles that this present Minister inherited were nothing to the troubles that the First Minister under this administration inherited and I propose to say something about "all the great things" in the words of my friend that have been done in southeast Manitoba at that time.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, that will be very interesting because you certainly told us a great deal about what you were going to do and your colleague, the First Minister is in exactly the same position, and when we look at these estimates we don't see any realization of those great claims. Now, . . . (interjection) They're which?

MR. ROBLIN: Up half a million dollars.

MR. MOLGAT: Up half a million dollars. In this field?

MR. ROBLIN: Yes.

MR. MOLGAT: I see no increase over last year.

MR. ROBLIN: If you look at the total for this department.

MR. MOLGAT: Look at the total of the department yourself. There's less than \$200,000 increase.

MR. ROBLIN: . . . not over when you were in office.

MR. MOLGAT: Well, that's very fine but my honourable friend made lots of claims before he was in the government, and what we're looking for now is the results. And I claim that my honourable friend has been starving this particular department for one. Yes, and the Department of Agriculture and many others.

MR. ROBLIN: We're spending twice as much in Agriculture as . . .

MR. MOLGAT: By transferring -- transferring from one department to another. Now don't -- quit trying to fool the public with that one.

MR. ROBLIN: When you add the capital return together . . .

MR. MOLGAT: You tried that one long enough.

MR. ROBLIN: Oh, no!

MR. MOLGAT: Just relax on that one. If you think that you can go on around fooling people by transferring things from one department to the other that your spending more money in a certain field, it doesn't hold water and you know it.

MR. ROBLIN: No one makes that plain but you.

MR. MOLGAT: No, you're the one who's making it . . .

MR. ROBLIN: No, Sir! Its' there in the figures.

MR. MOLGAT: The point is, Mr. Chairman, (interjection) that when these estimates were being prepared, I presume, my honourable friends found that all these great promises of theirs cost a tremendous amount of money and that they weren't able to pay for them. As you look at these estimates you'll find that in two departments, Education and Health and Welfare, either those two Ministers have a great deal of pull with my honourable friend or the commitments there were too binding and the forward statement simply couldn't be held back, so they got their money. Buy my honourable friend here, this poor fellow who's just inherited this department, where does he find himself? No money. (interjection) No money -- unable to follow through with the great promises made by my honourable friends; unable to follow through with all these programs that we were told about. The result is now that he has to struggle through and tell as best he can about the things his department is doing -- and I'm

(Mr. Molgat, continued)... saying that a great deal of things he's done are good. I'm not suggesting -- I'm not suggesting that they're bad. But I certainly sympathize with my honourable friend for the position in which he is. Because this is a far cry, a far cry from the promises that had been made previously.

Now, there's one item which I brought up previously, the Forestry Branch, and I want to bring it to the attention of the new Minister at this time, is with one field, the Forestry in the Province of Manitoba, which is not yielding to the Province of Manitoba the benefits that it should. Now I realize that it's a federal park -- I'm speaking of the Riding Mountain National Park. My honourable friend is not directly responsible for the area and I'm not blaming him for the problems that exist there, but I would like to ask his consideration of pressure on the Federal Government to change the procedures and practices in that park -- and that unless the federal people are going to handle the forestry resources in that very area in a better way than they have been doing, then they should transfer it back to the province. At least the forestry management, because at this time the Riding Mountain National Park is simply not yielding the timber and pulp that it should for the benefit of the people who live around it. The park is very good from the recreational standpoint; there's no arguments in that regard, the government has done a splendid job at the Wasagaming, Clear Lake, and various other points in the park. That is quite satisfactory. However, the residents around the whole park -- and as you know there's a large agricultural area all around it -- are unable, at this time, to get value out of that park from a forestry standpoint. They do suffer from the park to a considerable extent as my honourable friend indicated this afternoon in the field of game particularly, who come out of the park and live off the settled land below. On certain slopes of the mountain there is a very considerable damage from erosion, from shale coming down onto farm lands and municipal works below but there is no return offsetting that in forestry and timber. And this is something that should be looked into. I realize, as I said at the outset, that it's a federal responsibility at this stage, but nevertheless there it is sitting right in the midst of the province, sitting right in a heavily settled area sitting in a very accessible location -- a tremendous possibility for production for the province which is not being used. And I would like the Minister to give consideration to this, to put pressure on the Federal Government either to change their methods or then transfer it back to the province and let us handle the forestry resources there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, I see there's a substantial decrease in this item. Could the Minister tell us why? From \$177,000 to \$129,000.

MR. WITNEY: This item, Mr. Chairman, is for the construction of access roads and docks, boathouses and some buildings to be used by the forestry personnel and the reason for the decrease is that the capital development this year has been transferred to the Capital Account and will come up under those estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, under (e), this \$90,000 is the provincial share or is this the one from which we deduct the recoveries from Canada?

MR. WITNEY: We deduct the recoveries from Canada from this \$90,000. This \$90,000 is the provincial share.

MR. MOLGAT: How come then, has the recoveries from Canada dropped so very substantially in these two years? From \$82,000 to \$51,000? I find here that the total expenditure apparently is the same and yet our recoveries are well, not quite half, but certainly very substantially reduced.

MR. WITNEY: The recoveries from the Federal Government are made on capital expenditures in pre-fire suppression and we have a fair amount of equipment at the present time, we just haven't had to buy any more so the recoveries are down.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Is the government experimenting with any new types of fire-fighting methods such as dropping water from planes?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, we are experimenting with water-bombing from our Beaver aircraft and the pilots have become quite adept at it. We've also experimented with the water-dropping at our water tanks on the Otter aircraft on the floats. We have one Otter fixed up to handle that. We've also experimented during the past year with this Bentonite .. from Miami

(Mr. Witney, continued)... and southern Manitoba, which proved to be quite efficient and experimentation on it will be continued this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . .

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, are the hay permits handled under the Forestry Branch or the Lands Branch?

MR. WITNEY: Under the Lands Branch.

MR. SHOEMAKER: The Lands Branch.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Mr. Chairman, commenting about the -- I believe you're on the part of forest surveys and mangement -- is that where you are at the present time? (interjection) Well, I'd like to come back to that item, Sir. I think that we have possibly the finest pine trees in the whole of Canada but I believe that -- I was somewhat appalled and the people and the press, in the regard to the want and wastage that took place this last Christmas when hundreds and thousands of Christmas trees were brought into this city and it was sheer waste. I'm just wondering whether the government has no responsibility on the number of trees that are cut by the people who want to sell these trees because I think it's a shame that we've had so many wasted this past year, particularly when I think of one very worthy organization who had bought some trees, I think it was the Optimist Club up around Polo Park, that had to burn hundreds of these trees and it looked like a forest fire when you looked from this area over to Polo Park. And I'm just wondering whether the government is aware of this loss and what is going to be done about it because I don't think it's right that any Tom, Dick or Harry can just go off into the bush and bring all the trees he wants and then just partly sell some of it and the rest are destroyed. I'm just wondering what is the policy of the government for future activities in this regard in curtailment.

MR. WITNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we regret that that happened too this past year and when it was noted the Forestry Branch issued a news release to the radio and the newspapers, asking people not to cut anymore because we had too many as it was. All I can say on that is that we will just keep it under strict observation this coming year.

MR. HAWRYLUK: Well, Mr. Chairman, can just anybody go in and cut as many as he wants without a check-up by some authority in the areas that they are cut?

MR. WITNEY: No, they go in in specified areas and they buy a permit. I think the permit is -- and I stand corrected on this, -- I think it's 50 cents, and they cut trees which are marked by the department's men.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, is it not a fact that a great many of the Christmas trees which appear to be over-numerous in some years, come as a matter of fact from the other operations, the lumbering operation and pulpwood operation and such like, where they're just the unusable part at the top of the tree, and that there actually is not the waste that a lot of people think there is in that regard because they're the part that are not good for lumber or for pulpwood or anything of that kind, they're just the topping. My impression used to be, I haven't been in touch with this recently at all, but my impression was that not only a good many but actually the vast majority came from that source.

MR. WITNEY: Yes, that is true, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the honourable member for bringing it to my attention and assisting me in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . . passed, (g) passed.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, last year, last session about this time I mentioned to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources at the time that many employees of the department, particularly the Department of Forestry in the southeast Manitoba, and these are casual employees I'm speaking of specifically, have had difficulties with their pay cheques. They don't seem to be paid for something like two or fifteen days or ten days or sometimes up to three weeks, after the time in which they've done their work. Now if any other employer in the province did this, they'd be prosecuted by our own provincial authorities and I don't see any particular reason why the Province of Manitoba, as such, should be allowed to delay the salary cheques to these people over such a long period of time. At the time the Honourable Minister said that this would be checked into and rectified but the situation is still the same. It's taking at least 10 days and sometimes more for the employees to get their cheques; and as the Honourable Member for St. George so often brings up in the House, the cheques just come as such made out to a person with no indication as to how many hours they've worked,

(Mr. Roberts, continued)..... how many hours they have been paid and what the deductions are for; they just have to guess how the final amount of the cheque was arrived at, and I think that these two things, for the sake of harmony between ourselves and our employees, should be straightened out.

MR. WITNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's a situation that I was unaware of and as another Minister, I can only say that I'll take it under consideration and see if some improvement can't be made.

..... Continued on next page .....

MR. M. N. HRYHORCZUK, Q. C. (Ethelbert Plains): Mr. Chairman, on (i), I'd like to take the members of the committee on the annual excursion into the heart of Manitoba. One of the finest recreational areas in the province and in spite of the fact, Mr. Chairman, that everybody had a standing invitation last year to pay this beautiful and wonderful country a visit, I didn't see very many faces from this House up in that country. I'd like to repeat, Mr. Chairman, that if you want to spend a fine weekend or a summer holiday, you can't find a better place than right in the heart of Manitoba, which includes the part of the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Education and the Honourable Member from Roblin and I would suggest to you that you -- (Interjection: What about Swan River?) -- Oh, well, we'll come to Swan River, after they've seen what they've got to go through I doubt whether they'll want to go any further. But, if you really want to spend a nice weekend or a week by yourselves or with your families, I don't think that you could find a finer place to spend it in. If you take No. 5 out of Neepawa you will hit Lake Dauphin, a very lovely lake with fine beaches on it, swimming beaches for the kiddies, good fishing and at this point, I'd like to remind the Minister that we still see no development on the north end of Lake Dauphin in the area that's known as the Silver Sands. One of the finest natural beaches on the continent, not only in Manitoba, and it's being allowed to lie there without having the proper use made of it and I would very strongly recommend to the Minister that this particular beach be looked into. It's only a short distance away from a good hard-top road and in fact the road with the exception of a few miles is hard-top all the way and when the government gets into the 20th century pace, it will be hard-top all the way, to No. 5.

When you leave Lake Dauphin, you travel along the shores for quite a distance, you can turn off on No. 20 and go to Lake Winnipegosis which is another natural for recreation; good fishing, wonderful beaches for the kiddies and for the family as a whole. This particular area is semi-developed with some assistance from the government in the past and I think it should be looked into as a recreational area right in the village of Winnipegosis to start with and then all the way along the shore of Lake Winnipegosis up into Camperville and Duck Bay where some of the finest pickerel are caught and there are hundreds upon hundreds of tourists that come from all over the province, Canada and our neighbours to the south. But if you really want to see the beauties of that particular part of the country, when you hit Dauphin, take No. 5 and when you hit the junction of No. 5 and 10, go up No. 10 and strike into the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve, or you can go down No. 5 into the Honourable Member from Roblin, his constituency, you can go in from there, still on black-top and come into the Reserve from that angle, and from whatever side you come into, you're going to come into some of the most scenic country that there is in the province. And I'm not laying this on, Mr. Chairman; anybody that's been there has been very much impressed and have always come back when they were able to. You will run into virtually scores of fresh-water lakes, teeming with fish for the angler, fine bathing. You can travel from No. 10 right across to No. 83 now on a good all-weather road or you can travel from No. 10 until you hit this cross-road from No. 5 rather at Grandview, and this year, if all goes well and the government continues the work that has been going on in that particular reserve for quite a number of years now, you'll be able to travel right from No. 10 right up into the Honourable Member from Swan River's constituency, which also has some very beautiful country in it, rolling valleys as well as hills and wooded area.

Now insofar as the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve is concerned, it's not only one of the largest producers of timber products in the Province of Manitoba but it will remain as such for many years to come. I don't want to go into the history of that mountain and the timber that has been taken out of it during the past half century, but the new growth in there is just about reaching the stage where it's ready to be taken out, and you can see miles and miles and miles of coniferous trees, spruce, jack-pine, tamarac, and if you are a lover of nature, I don't think you'll find a nicer place to relax in. It's not over-crowded; there are plenty of lakes that are accessible right from these roads, in fact the roads run along side of them; some of them have cottages on, some of them have concessions on them; others I hope will be left in their natural state for all the friends of Manitoba, and the time is fast approaching, Mr. Chairman, when these areas are going to mean more and more to us and everybody else. The pace that life is setting right now is pretty hard to stay with, without being able to relax and I don't know of a finer place to relax than to relax with nature, and if you want relaxation, the Duck Mountain

(Mr. Hryhorczuk, cont'd.) . . . Forest Reserve is the place to go.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I might -- (Interjection) -- Hear, hear! I can contribute one little gem that perhaps the honourable member doesn't know that the height of land in the Duck Mountains is just exactly twelve times the height of this building from the top of the Golden Boy to the ground.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: And incidentally the highest part in the Province of Manitoba is in the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve. It's even higher than Hart Mountain in the Porcupines.

MR. ROBLIN: It's the highest point -- higher than any point in the Province of Ontario too so you can add that to your . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . .

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, could we have the breakdown under Item 5 (i) -- the \$180,000, as to where this money is going to be spent and what on?

MR. WITNEY: I'd like to compliment the Honourable Member from Ethelbert Plains for the very fine promise that he did on his area. If he is so eloquent I don't think it will be quite as peaceful up in the Duck Mountains in the future as it is at the present time, and that's one area that I would like to see myself. I must say in my hurry to get back to the north country, I've not gone through there but when I next go back to the beautiful north country, and its lakes and its big fish and its very fine areas, I'll be only too pleased to drive through there to see if there's any comparison. Thank you!

Now in the Recreational Developments, Mr. Chairman, to just read them off; work will be done on Birch Point in the Lake of the Woods; maintenance of picnic grounds in the southern district; improvement of camp grounds in the Cormorant Reserve; a camp ground will be developed at the E. . . . beach; there will be maintenance of and development at Barrel and Steep Rock lake camp grounds; maintenance and improvement of Wellman and Glad Lake camp grounds; maintenance and improvement of Singoosh and Blue Lake camp ground; maintenance and development of Charles and Lorry lakes camp ground; and general maintenance and signs etc. in the western forest district; at Brereton Lake a complete improvement to the camp and picnic grounds; White Lake, change-house, docks, kitchenette and electrified camping lots; Inverness Falls, dock and beach improvement; and garbage disposal improvement at White Stone, camp ground and maintenance in the Whiteshell; power supply in the Whiteshell; picnic sites and portage trails in the Whiteshell; complete retaining wall and landscaping at West Hawk; kitchenettes at Miller Beach and Crescent Beach at West Hawk; boat-house site at McKenzie Beach; shelter building, Toniata; back-filling and landscaping at Faloma Beach; playground equipment, weed and sand, or removal of weed and sanding of beaches at Star Lake; work on the playground and the mosaics at Nutimik Lake; work on the Picket Creek camp ground and dock Nutimik Lake; and they'll fill the gully in the campground at Betula Lake; three wells will be drilled in the Winnipeg River area; picnic site established at Dorothy Lake; and public reserves and erosion control on the Winnipeg River; a fire hazard removal, signs, tables and miscellaneous facilities will be taken care of; at Falcon Beach there will be beach maintenance, park and grounds maintenance, and building maintenance, etc.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit I hope of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, I have here a clipping from the Carillon News of October 10th, 1958, and I believe around October 10th, 1958, the Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources was probably hunting with his mind at ease in the Flin Flon area and probably didn't know some of the promises that were being made by his leader at that time. This clipping is headed "Eastern Development Plans Outlined by Roblin" and it was a speech in Pine Falls to the Eastern Manitoba Development Board, and this speech -- I'll quote parts of it here, firstly under the Forestry Program. . . .

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend would like to save that interesting clipping until the estimates of my colleague come up, he's prepared to make a full report on the Eastern Manitoba Development and perhaps the two could best be dealt with at that time.

MR. ROBERTS: With all due deference I suggest that the Forestry Program isn't of anyone's concern except the Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. ROBLIN: It so happens that we have -- there are many aspects that come under development problems in southeastern Manitoba, and while it's true that it concerns more than one department, the supervision or the responsibility for reporting in the House on it is

(Mr. Roblin, continued) . . . in the hands of the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. ROBERTS: I was only telling that this speech was delivered to the Eastern Manitoba Development Board so that the Honourable the First Minister wouldn't have any doubts that he made this speech. The speech concerns entirely the Department of Mines and Natural Resources and therefore I shall read it: "The search indicates that the forests in this area are capable of producing six times as much as they yield at present, providing we implement proper reforestation and forest management," the Premier stated, "Such a program would necessarily mean that for some time to come, woodsmen would be unable to cut as much lumber as at present. But we have thought of that too. There is enough development work needed in these parts to provide employment for the men who would be affected." I suggest that there are many, many men who were affected by this cut-back in the amount of wood being cut who are presently unemployed and who could be very usefully employed, as I suggest, cutting fire guards and trails. Then to go on, further on in the speech the Honourable the First Minister said the following: "Under study at the present time is the possibility of community pastures in certain areas" -- which we apparently haven't heard of since -- "and the development of better livestock through such agencies as proposed Agricultural Credit Bank." And I might say at this time that the Agricultural Credit Bank which is now in force will not lend money to these people because their land isn't valuable enough to go into livestock. Then further along in his speech, the Honourable the First Minister said the following: "Natural resources in eastern Manitoba are assets we have yet to develop. The lakes and rivers and the scenic beauty should provide great possibilities for the tourist trade. For the purpose of exploiting this potential, Mr. Roblin said, the entire tourist industry is going to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, you'll be pleased to know. They will help to co-ordinate the development of waters and forests with the tourist trade." Then further on in the speech, the Premier said that the great north road or the north road was being built, "in this regard the location of a north road is being studied. Present tentative plans place the road close to the Ontario boundary since it must be built with a fishing, forest and tourist industry in mind." I'll send this whole clipping over to you, Mr. Minister, because I think you should know some of the promises that were made before you came into office.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I think I'd just like to comment on one or two of those remarks because my honourable friend, I think, ought to know about the community pasture for example, that it is under development now. We had quite a little talk about that when the Minister of Agriculture's estimates were up. I think that he will probably recall that if I mention it. In respect of the livestock industry, we are now engaged as my honourable friend knows, in a land-use survey of that particular part of the Province of Manitoba, in order to see just how the livestock industry can be assisted in that area. I'm sure he is aware that this program is well under way and that reports will be forthcoming from that quite soon. And certain other studies are going to be undertaken by the University when we have our livestock research centre going there, but I want to refer to the land-use study in particular in south-eastern Manitoba which is basic as I am sure he will agree to any program for redevelopment in that area.

Regarding the tourist industry we have spent a great deal of money in building tourist roads throughout the whole of that eastern country, particularly in the Whiteshell, in establishing wayside tourist developments on the sides of No. 1 highway and at other places in the area, and very substantial investments have already been made in that particular respect, as I'm sure my honourable friend is also aware. With respect to the northern road it's true that -- he said it was under study -- and that is correct and I think the House knows the reason why that road is not being built there. It was found to be impractical to build it in that particular part of the province. Those are just one or two of the points that I gathered from his quick reading of that clipping but the only point that I really want to make just now is that the problems of development in southeastern Manitoba cannot be looked at on a departmental basis, they're much wider than that. You take Mines and Resources, you take Agriculture, the Health and Welfare Department is interested in it, the Department of Roads is interested in it, and when my colleague, the Minister of Industry and Commerce is dealing with his estimates I think he will be able to give the committee a report on what progress has been made in working on this difficult problem. But I don't think that it will be found that the facts bear out



(Mr. Roblin, continued). . . . the implication that has been left with the committee by my honourable friend that nothing or little or nothing has been done in this particular area.

MR. ROBERTS: I differ with the Honourable the First Minister on that because I think the facts will bear out that nothing has been done in this area to implement the promises made at this time; and nothing has been done in the area that wasn't planned before; nothing has been done in the area that isn't just an extension of what was being done. No new roads are being built; no great reforestation is going on, no great fire-guard building or cutting, no extra employees have been taken on and generally speaking no extra work is being done and I think the facts will bear that out. I think the Honourable the First Minister probably didn't hear me properly when I was telling him about his old speech here where he says the development of better livestock through such agencies as the proposed Agricultural Credit Bank would be encouraged. I'm sure you must realize Sir, that no one in the area can borrow money under the agricultural credit bank to raise livestock because your Act does not allow them to do so. And furthermore with the community pasture, if it's coming, well and good, but they are not there yet and nothing has been done to assist that field.

MR. ROBLIN: I simply repeat my honourable friend is mistaken when he says nothing has been done; he's mistaken when he says nobody can get money for cattle in southeastern Manitoba. I repeat that a statement will be made on this subject and I suggest he should withhold his comments until the facts are before us.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, did the Minister - The Honourable the First Minister say that the community pasture down there is under development?

MR. ROBLIN: I said that when the Honourable Minister of Agriculture was speaking before the House he gave a report on what was being done about the community pasture in that area, and while I can't recall verbatim what he said I think it would be true to say that he indicated to the Honourable Member for Carillon that they were looking at a community pasture site in that area. The honourable member asked him where it was and he was unable to tell him because it's not reached that stage where we would wish to have the information made known.

MR. CAMPBELL: That was why I asked the question Mr. Chairman, because I understood the First Minister to say that it was under development and I think Hansard will bear me out that that was the term that was used and the reason that I wanted to check on that was because I had recalled that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture was unable to give the location of it, and certainly if it had been under development -- I gather that what the Honourable the First Minister meant to say was that it's under study or consideration, not development.

MR. ROBLIN: I won't argue with you about words, it seems the same thing to me.

MR. CAMPBELL: It's not the same thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . . .

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, before we go on to that did we get the salaries on the last one?

MR. WITNEY: This year there will be 116; last year there were 113. We have taken on three for recreational development in the Department. 116 this year, 113 last.

MR. CAMPBELL: . . . . . on the next branch.

MR. WITNEY: In the Game Branch it is 76 this year; 74 last year. We have taken on two new biologists.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, we had a few remarks made on this particular branch in the general discussion, but I think that some of what was said does not apply to the area that I come from and I just would like to make a brief resume of the game situation up in the heart of Manitoba insofar as our Upland birds were concerned in 1959. I think there was a slight drop in the population due to the fact that spring weather conditions weren't favourable; the hatching wasn't favourable and the survival of the young, the chicks, was not too good but we still have a good Upland bird population in the heart of Manitoba. Insofar as the ducks are concerned we had more ducks in that area particularly in around Ethelbert than we had at any time in the past 40 years. Whether the ducks had changed their flyways or what brought that on I don't know, but there was several species noted that hadn't been seen in the past, and there were, oh I'd say, anywhere from 10 to 20 times as many ducks as we usually have up in that area. Insofar as the deer are concerned they've made a very strong comeback since the middle '50's when we had the hard winter that starved out most of them; and insofar as the

(Mr. Hryhorczuk, continued)... bigger game, that's the moose and elk are concerned, in the Duck Mountains we've held the population pretty steady and been cropping off I think an average of somewhere around 500 animals a year. And I think that's a wonderful program. Before we had that cropping program the population was never as good as it is right now unless you go back a matter of 40 or 50 years. As to how they'll fare this winter is hard to say at this time but the snow in the mountain proper is pretty heavy and the game is being forced out into the farmlands. If the winter persists with the cold we've got for any length of time I'm afraid that we'll be losing quite a number of our big game, and the same applies to the Riding Mountain.

I think that last year I mentioned the fact that the Riding Mountain should be opened up for hunting and I'm still of that opinion and more so after I read an article in the Free Press which appeared in the February 10th edition of this year and to quote from that article just very briefly and it's talking about Manitoba's elk population, "hunger looms as a major enemy of Manitoba elk population. One of the largest concentrations in Canada." Then it points out that in 1946 the estimated number of elk in the Riding Mountain Park were 12,000. This has been reduced to 5,000 which would be almost entirely due to starvation Mr. Chairman. We often hear it said that we shouldn't be hunting these big game because they draw tourists, they are tourist attractions, they're nice to see. But when you consider the fact that more than half the elk population of Riding Mountain starved in the 10-year period and probably will take a great number of years to come back to that particular figure, and I doubt whether it will, because the population is due entirely to your winter browse situation, if the food isn't there during the winter time then they just don't come through. And I would once again suggest to the Minister, as I did last year, that every effort be made to have the Federal Government go along with the ideas of our wildlife experts and that the Mountain be opened up to hunting. If it is opened up to hunting, then we can maintain the herds that are in there now and at the same time make valuable use of the game in there. I know he may find it difficult because of certain ideas that are held in that connection, but I believe that, as I previously said, if he uses our experts to support his argument, I think that he can make them see the light and that the Riding Mountain will be open to big game in the future, big game hunting.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, during the agricultural estimates we had a pretty thorough discussion on the lack of compensation for damage to crops caused by deer, elk, etc., and I think it was pretty well finalized that there was no compensation forthcoming from the Department of Agriculture. I wonder if the Honourable the Minister of this Department has any ideas on the subject matter. During the agricultural estimates I read a letter received on February the 15th last, from about a dozen farmers in the Edrans area stating the extensive damage that was done in that area to their crops and stacks of hay, alfalfa, etc. The letter, and I'm not going to read it again, Mr. Chairman, but the letter states that you can refer to Ralph Hancock, your Game Warden at Westbourne and also the Game Warden at Brandon, who can report on this matter and verify the damage done. Now no doubt the Honourable Minister has checked with both of these wardens and he probably knows more than I do about the extent of damage done. I know that this year I think will prove to be the worst for any year, say for the last 20 years. This letter indicates that it is a bad year and no doubt due to the snow, to the early snow and the amount of the snow.

That brings up an interesting point too that was brought forward by some members of the Game and Fish Association and I know that the Honourable the Minister apparently is not responsible for the elk population at Riding Mountain National Park as has been suggested by other speakers and I guess that he is not responsible for the hay permits that are issued within the Riding Mountain National Park. I don't know whether that is a fact or not. But it has been suggested by some people in the area that there was something like 500 hay permits issued within the boundaries of the Park and they suggest that possibly too many hay permits were issued, thus reducing the natural food of the elk within the area. And as a result of that of course the elk population are now going out to eat the hay that was previously taken out by the farmers. I don't know how much truth there is in this but I think it's something that's worth investigating because it is something that must be guarded against. I mean, I don't think the revenues from the sale of hay permits even with the increased fees if there are any, I don't think it's a big source of revenue and I think it is something that needs investigation. I know the Honourable the Minister is quite familiar with the incident that took place about two months

(Mr. Shoemaker, cont'd.).....ago at the Riding Mountain National Park, much to the disgust of a lot of the hunters in the area. I'm not a hunter myself so it didn't affect me other than I had a bunch of game and fish members down my neck and then I just passed the buck to the Honourable the First Minister. But they were pretty disgusted with the slaughter of elk and I think it was very limited, it was probably exaggerated but the slaughter of elk that went on within the boundaries of the Park, and possibly the Honourable the Member for Ethelbert Plains has raised a subject that is worth consideration.

Now to get back to the compensation to farmers for damage caused by deer, elk, etcetera. It seems to me that the farmers have a legitimate complaint here, because if their neighbors cattle either accidentally or otherwise got out and trampled a crop into the ground or consumed half of it they certainly would expect compensation, there's no doubt about that. And this government and the former administration opened the door in this field when they started their duck feeding program and I think it is a very worthwhile program. I understand that presently it costs the government in the neighborhood of \$30,000 a year to operate the duck feeding stations, and I would refer you to Page 96 of the Annual Report, the Department of Mines and Natural Resources -- true it is a year old Mr. Chairman -- but in that report on Page 96 under Game Branch, Item 6 there is an item there, Item (d) compensation. Now I don't know whether that is the item that tells us the cost of the duck feeding program or not but it shows \$28,400. So I say Mr. Chairman, that when we started the duck feeding program it did open up this subject of compensating the farmer for damage done, and I don't think that it would be a very expensive program to compensate the farmers, this year in particular for the damage done to their crops by elk and deer. I don't think there are too many acres involved; I don't think it would be too costly a program. I think they deserve some consideration and I guess that 6 (b), there will be an item in there for accident prevention. I imagine Mr. Chairman that this government has an accident prevention program of some kind, and I'm referring now to the program that this government carries out to prevent the loss of human life in hunting season. And for the last two or three years, the last four sessions including this one, that I have attended, there has always come up this subject of the attire worn by the hunters and it seems to me that the hunters generally are wearing white clothing during the hunting season. I understand that the Manitoba Federation of Game and Fish have repeatedly appealed to the provincial government to recognize the fact that yellow is a better colour, a better colour of wearing apparel to guard against accidents, than is white, and I just happened to pick out of my pocketbook here a little yellow telephone reminder call and that will give you an idea -- you can spot the yellow right there. And it seems to me that the Game and Fish people have a point here. I happened to look out my office window one day this winter and saw a little girl going by the school with yellow overshoes on, it's the first pair of yellow rubber overshoes I've ever seen. But by golly they really catch your eye in the white snow. -- (Interjection) -- She was only about ten years old so you don't need to worry about it. But if it is a fact that the Game and Fish Branch have been pressing for this change in attire for the last four or five years what are the objections to it. I have never heard the objections to changing the colour of the clothing from white to yellow; there may be but I just haven't heard of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, as I said the problem of Riding Mountain Park that was referred to by the Honourable Member from Ethelbert Plains and the Honourable Member from Neepawa is to be discussed with an official of the Dominion Parks Service in about two weeks time and some of the ideas that have been expressed by the Honourable Member for Ethelbert Plains and also the Honourable Member for Neepawa will be drawn to the attention of that official by our game people when the discussions are held this coming week.

As for the subject of the yellow for hunters' dress. We have taken that subject to the Manitoba Game and Fish Association and asked if they would put it on the agenda for their meeting in the Riding Mountain Park this spring. There is some controversy among hunters themselves as to the effectiveness of this yellow. It has been tried in the United States with a great deal of effectiveness but it has never been tried under conditions here in Manitoba and there has been a very strong representation put forward to take red out of the --- as a color for a hunting uniform. But that too, we have asked the Manitoba Game and Fish Association to discuss it at their meeting and to see what the feeling of the hunters are across the province.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, before we leave this item. This question of deer damage to crops, farmers crops is a perennial one and keeps coming up in various parts of the province from time to time. It just occurred to me maybe we could find a solution or a part of a solution for this problem if we established a fund similar to the unsatisfied judgment fund under the Highway Traffic Act by putting a certain amount—tacking a certain amount—unto your licenses and build up the fund. I'm quite sure that the sportsmen of the Province of Manitoba would be quite willing to make their contribution; they are fully aware of the fact that it is the farmers that help to pull through most of our game and I just wondered whether it wouldn't bear looking into and see if we couldn't build a fund up that way and look after this perennial problem in that fashion.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister answers, if he would like to get some of the other questions in front of him, I would like to ask him about two particular matters. One with regard to the muskrat program, the registered trap lines and where those pelts are now sold; whether they're sold locally or whether some are sold on the Montreal market as well; and if he's able to tell us what price was received for the '59 crop and how the prospects are for the '60 crop. I have an interest in the muskrat business because one of the registered trap lines is in my area, the south end of Lake Manitoba and when the Honourable Member for St. George was speaking this afternoon I was thinking of the annual harvest that that area has given, year after year, in muskrats alone. Of course there are other fur as well, mink and weasel in particular, and while it's a very small one compared with the Summerberry and Libau and some of the other areas, yet it is important and I was impressed at looking once again at the figures that are given in the annual report. This report of course is just to the last day of March, '59 which again makes it eleven months old. There's a very interesting table there, I'm sure the Minister hasn't the opportunity of keeping these things all in his mind, but on Page 75 there's a table that gives both the production, comparative production, for different years of the highest and the lowest on record; both as production and then as to price, the highest price on record and the lowest price on record. Luckily the lowest didn't correspond with the lowest production. Perhaps less luckily the highest price didn't correspond with the highest production either. But it is interesting to note that with the muskrats that they have varied according to this table from practically a million and a half in one year, 1955-56, to a low of 214,000 approximately in another year; and the price from the highest to the lowest has varied from \$3.50 in 1945-46 to a price in the "tough thirties" of 44¢. That I think points out the hazardous situation that the trappers face with the variation in both the yield and the price; and then they faced the other one years ago of the variation, still greater variation in production because of their natural conditions being changed greatly through the fluctuations of the water level and that's why the dams were put in in the north and a registered trap lines setup instituted. Now then I think that has been in total a pretty successful program, and though I've not been really close to it even in the years that I was in the government, I took some interest in it on account of having quite an industry in my own area, and I was wondering if the Minister would be able to give us any information as to approximate price received in 1959 and where the crop that the Department had the disposal of for the trap line operators was sold.

The Mr. Chairman, the other particular question that I wanted to deal with was not the one of compensation for loss that the Honourable Member for Gladstone has raised, but an allied question of the feeding program that was instituted out in the Delta Marsh area to try and cut down the crop loss. And my remembrance of that one is that it was very successful, in fact successful I think beyond all expectations. Certainly beyond my expectations. And I know that it was somewhat expensive and I would like to know what the intentions of the Department are as to continuing that type of program. I realize that they can't likely continue it indefinitely in one area without making it available to other parts of the province if they want it. And that does raise the question of cost, and I was going to make -- it's likely the hunters will not thank me for this suggestion -- but I was going to say that I thought that there again, that if the Department feels that it simply can't carry the cost and the likelihood of extension of it that it seems to me to be a reasonable thing to put some at least on to the sportsmen who take out licences. Another table in the report of the Department, shows us that the number of licences issued was something in the neighborhood of 35,000 I believe and the revenue something in the neighborhood of \$131,000--if I read the table correctly. And if it were necessary to increase the Game Bird licence, well let us say by 50%, it would result in quite a revenue. In any case I'm very anxious as far as that

(Mr. Campbell, cont'd.)....area that I know so well is concerned to see that program continued because I think that it has been remarkably successful, and it isn't only my own opinion, but I have here a copy, or a digest, rather than a copy, a digest of the presentation that the Director of this branch made to a conference in St. Louis, Missouri, just about exactly a year ago -- exactly two years ago now. He was reporting on just the first year of operation, I think, at that time. Since that, there has been the fall of '58 and the fall of '59 so you've three years experience. And I won't take the time to read this report. It will be available to the Minister, it's by Mr. Malaher on March 2nd, at St. Louis, Missouri and really it's an excellent report, in my opinion. It's better phrased than I could do it and it sets out that -- I think he uses the term that it was spectacularly successful, it's only fair to say that he does also mention the fact that the cost on the basis of a full program of this kind would be high. And that's undoubtedly true. But I do think that subsequent years have proven that it's an excellent program. Mr. Malaher at this St. Louis gathering asked the question, how are we going to accomplish the kind of conservation that we would like and continue to have wild fowl available for the sportsmen if this resentment from the farmers who feed the ducks continues to build up. And he says if this program is not resolved or at least greatly reduced in seriousness we shall be working against ourselves and encouraging demands to reduce, not just the mallard but ducks; and he goes on to say that not enough attention, in his opinion, has been devoted to that question at this conference and he says the problem is urgent. Well the Minister can look that over at his convenience, I think it's well worthwhile and I would like to not only ask about what's going to be done but urge that that program be continued because from my personal knowledge of the area concerned I can say that it has saved the farmers many, many times the cost, or to use the terms of our flood production study, the benefit cost ratio is very, very favourable.

Now that still doesn't mean that the government can put in a program in one area like that and deny it to other parts and the Delta Marsh area and adjoining territory is not the only one that has this problem I am sure. So I don't know any recommendation to make except to say that this one I think should be continued and expanded to other areas that are similarly affected, with some of the cost being borne, if necessary, by I would suggest, the hunting public. I'm delighted to see that even after the first year of operation that the ideas from the Department were so favourable and I would think that perhaps the last two years have been equally so. I am told that the feeding program there has drawn the ducks from a very wide area, that it was not only the local ones there, but that a very wide area, as far away as the big grass marsh and similar distances on the other sides were covered. So that it's not a purely local one, but certainly it doesn't cover all of Manitoba.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Chairman, on this same subject, that is the duck feeding program. I can certainly verify that it is a worthwhile program and I won't bother the House with telling them of my experience on this subject matter as I did at the last session, but one farmer in the Portage area suggested to me, as did the Game and Fish association there that while it was true that they fed something in the neighborhood of 30,000 bushel I think, they estimated that by thus doing they saved over 100,000 bushel of grain. So if you're -- one to three sounds like a pretty good bet to me.

Now I would like to ask the Honourable Minister, Mr. Chairman, if he has been successful in obtaining any money from Ducks Unlimited for sharing the cost of operating the duck feeding stations. I know that an effort was made to convince them that they should share in the cost of this program. I personally think that they should; they're a fairly wealthy organization, I think their budget for the three prairie provinces is nearly a million dollars to promulgate the duck industry, and I think that surely they could be convinced to share in the feeding of the ducks. I think that it's most unfair to ask the farmers to feed the ducks, that Ducks Unlimited should share in the cost of it. I know that it has been suggested that the municipalities should be assessed to pay part of the cost of the duck feeding program and I would suggest now that that would be very, very difficult to assess for the simple reason that the Honourable, the Leader of our Party has suggested, that is, that it attracts -- the duck feeding stations attract ducks from such a large area that it's difficult to determine what municipalities you should assess for the program. And I think that the duck feeding program should be -- the cost of it should be borne by the hunters if necessary, by an additional licence fee, by Ducks Unlimited and by the Province of Manitoba. I think the farmers are making enough contribution by feeding a portion of the ducks.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to endorse what my honourable friend from Gladstone - Neepawa was saying in the matter of this clothing for big game hunters. Now I'm pleased to hear that the Minister is going to consult with the Game and Fish Association in this matter. In fact from the newspaper clippings that I see, I think the Minister is paying a good deal of attention to the Game and Fish Associations for which I commend him highly. These people are doing an excellent job in the Province of Manitoba. They are probably the greatest force at this time in the field of conservation that we have, and this problem will grow greater as our population grows, as also leisure time grows, we find more and more people out shooting, more and more people out fishing. The work that the Game and Fish Associations are doing will go only increasing in importance and I am certainly very pleased with the work that they have done in the past and pleased to see that the Minister is paying that much attention to them. Now this matter of safety while out shooting is serious and it is again with the number of hunters increasing becoming much more important. This year alone, my honourable friend the Minister of Education and my neighbor in constituencies in our very adjoining area there alongside the Riding Mountain at least two of his constituents were shot by one of mine, and at least one of my constituents were shot by one of his, so this becomes a rather serious affair, where just in a very small area like that there are that number of accidents. Fortunately neither of those were fatal. But the problem is there and it's going to go on increasing so I hope that the Minister will look into this soon so that possibly by next year, if there is some advantage to be had in yellow clothing that we will go ahead and make the change, because even if it saves only one life, let's not wait another day.

MR. WITNEY: The question of hunter clothing I think as the honourable member probably knows is quite a volatile one among the hunters themselves but we will be watching with interest what takes place at the Game and Fish Association when they meet in the Riding Mountain Park. I'd like to also echo the honourable member's commendation of the Game and Fish Association. While there have been some times that the Department has not seen quite eye to eye with the Manitoba Game and Fish Association, we have been able to discuss our problems in a realistic and sensible fashion and I have enjoyed my association with them. They've also -- and I would just like to mention this here as I neglected to mention it during the statement -- that I think they are to be commended, the people in the Morden area for the wild gobbler turkey program which they have instituted and fostered, and while the Department hasn't entered into it on a financial basis we are entering into it to assist them in the protection of this specie during the hunting season.

I find two suggestions quite interesting. The increased licence fee for the purpose mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition and also the possibilities of financial assistance from Ducks Unlimited on the duck feeding program. I don't know what has been done prior to my time but it's certainly a new suggestion to me and will be taken under consideration. As for the duck feeding program itself it will continue this year; it is being studied very closely by our biologist for there are some areas of the duck feeding program which are causing some concern, and at the same time that we are continuing with this program we are also continuing our efforts in other types of mechanical and -- mainly mechanical deterrents in order to try to scare ducks away. I think it's interesting to note that one of the banging type of arrangements that the department or the Game Branch originated this past year has been accepted in other provinces and I think it is a compliment to them.

As for the question of the furs, I regret that I cannot say where those furs are sold and that's information that I'll have to obtain for the Leader of the Opposition. The price paid on muskrat this year was \$1.01 and we had a muskrat production of 360,287 so in a rough calculation the value of the muskrat production this year was \$36,287. There has been a decrease in the muskrat population; that has primarily been to rising water conditions that we have encountered in the Summerberry Marsh and also problems that developed in the Delta Marshes, and we are at the present time studying just what should be done in the Delta Marsh with water levels and with respect to the Clandeboye dam and we are seeking advice from several sources including the Delta Water Fowl Station. We have also on our program of buying up land in the marshes, we have continued that program and I was pleased today to approve the purchase of some land in the Netley Marsh which is right in the centre of the area which would be able to facilitate more habitat for water fowl, also habitat for muskrat and also open up some areas for hunting by the public. We have during this past year, I don't know how much we have obtained, but we have

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.)....obtained parcels of land in the Delta and in the Netley areas. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that that has answered the questions that arose.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Is there an item in the estimates for accident prevention? Does the government spend any money in this regard? If they do I would suggest that possibly one way that they could make a very worthwhile contribution -- it wouldn't be a large one -- but they could make a contribution to the junior rifle clubs of the province. In Neepawa for instance, the junior rifle club is sponsored by the Game and Fish Association and they have about a hundred members. I attended their annual meeting a month or two ago and they put on a demonstration of accident prevention in the handling of fire arms and so on and I was really astonished at the enthusiasm that was displayed by the young members and I'm sure every one would be. I think that this type of program should be encouraged by the government. I think that the membership in the junior rifle club in a lot of the areas is almost equal to the membership of the Game and Fish Association, and certainly the time to start in accident prevention is when a fellow's growing up; that's the time to instill in his mind the proper methods of handling firearms and accident prevention.

MR. CHAIRMAN:.....

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, while we're under the Game and Fish Branch I was wondering whether the Minister is giving consideration to party hunting. It was brought to my attention by the Morden Game and Fish Branch. They passed a resolution at their association meeting and I'd like to read that resolution at this time. The resolution reads this way: (1) that party hunting be allowed, and that all hunters in a party shall be allowed to hunt and carry a rifle until all licences are filled as long as there is a hunter in the party with an unfilled licence. (2) that the tagging of big game be a must, that it be a metal tag, that the tag be attached to the hide, that the tag be placed on the animal prior to transporting the animal. (3) that the penalty for untagged deer be very severe." And they're suggesting a \$100.00 penalty. "(4) that periodic road blocks be set up over the province. (5) that proper identification of licences be required. (6) the party shall have no specified number of hunters." This resolution was passed at their meeting on December 28th, 1959. I was wondering whether the Minister has given any consideration to this matter.

MR. WITNEY: Mr. Chairman, in answering the question of the Honourable Member for Neepawa, no money is contained in this estimate for contributions towards safety and his suggestions will be taken under consideration. We have helped to foster some of these programs, such as the Winnipeg Game and Fish Association put forth this year, the visual acuity test, and I have been having discussions with them on those tests. We did contribute during the initial one for them and we have also asked that they extend them throughout areas of the province, which I understand from a recent meeting with the Game and Fish Association that they are prepared to do.

As for party hunting, this is quite a controversial matter among the hunters and when it came up the last time before the Game and Fish Association we asked the Game and Fish Association if they would form a committee with the Game Branch to bring forth some recommendations. I understand from the President of the Game and Fish Association that they have hit upon what they feel is a compromise solution and which will satisfy both sides of the argument, and the argument is one which generates very definite feelings on one side or the other. Now that meeting has not been held yet but I understood from Mr. Whellams the other day that they would be calling on us and on our Game Branch to discuss the matter of party hunting. We have canvassed some of the other provinces on the matter of party hunting, we find in Saskatchewan that they did have party hunting and have -- I understand they do not have it any longer, but the matter of party hunting is under study with the Manitoba Game and Fish Association at the present time. Metal tags will be used this year on game; we have decided to eliminate the paper type of tag to use metal tags. And on the junior rifle program I can only join in the comments of the Honourable Member for Neepawa in commendation for this program which once more was sponsored by the Manitoba Fish and Game Association.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned a little earlier the Morden attempt in establishing wild turkeys. Could he give some idea of whether this is being successful; is it likely that this will become a game bird in Manitoba? And while we're on the matter of species-- he also embarked on a caribou tagging program this year. Could he tell us what has been the

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) . . . results in that and what is the situation of the caribou herd in the province now?

MR. WITNEY: With respect to the wild turkeys, when I was down in Morden I was asking them down there just what success they were having, and they find that they are having good success in the area where they are fostering this type of bird. Whether or not it will become a game specie in Manitoba is something which I'm sorry I cannot answer at this time. I think it's a type of bird that requires a special type of habitat, and whether or not we have that in the province, in wide areas of the province, is something I do not know. I can only check with our biologist and obtain the answer for you.

As for the caribou tagging program, that has been conducted with the assistance of the Federal Government and I understand that the major portion of the tagging program has been completed and now they are watching for observations and to date they have spotted some of the caribou and the tags which have been placed in the ear of the caribou, they have been able to spot them from the air and it appears that they will be able to determine quite substantially the migration routes of the caribou as a result of the program during the past two years. I understand also that the young caribou or the fawn . . . . . caribou has shown an encouraging upswing; a year ago they were 20% up is the figure that I have been given, and I understand that the last count made showed another 20% increase. So the indications are a bit rosier than they have been for some time.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon while discussing the duck and water fowl situation, I was just wondering if the Minister would care to tell us if his Department has made any decisions regarding the season this year. I mean are they planning to open it later or what are they hoping to do this year. Could he indicate anything to the committee please.

MR. WITNEY: Well the seasons are determined in consultation with other provinces and the Federal Government and then in turn with the United States Government and those negotiations are under way at the present time I would imagine.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Mr. Chairman last fall I had occasion to meet with the Minister regarding a resident who had his car confiscated while hunting because of something that his son had done without the knowledge of his father. Now the other day the Minister brought in a Bill or an amendment to the Game Act whereby there will be no more confiscation. Is that correct? There will be no confiscation of any kind, if this amendment goes through? The reason I'm raising this point Mr. Chairman is I see a story in the paper very recently that the Game and Fish Branch is opposing very strenuously this amendment and I was wondering if the Minister intended to -- I'm not suggesting that he should or he shouldn't, I'm just interested in knowing-- whether he's going to abide by his decision to amend this Act or is he going to -- has he reconsidered in any way the . . . as a result of the Game and Fish Act. . . . .

MR. WITNEY: The matter, Mr. Chairman is under consideration. We have heard in the law amendments committee the opposition of the Manitoba Game and Fish Association, but we have not only heard from them, we have heard from others who approve of the amendment to the Act and it is under consideration at the present time.

MR. MOLGAT: Could the Minister tell us what are the salary changes here, the staff changes? What additions, what changes in staff?

MR. WITNEY: Two new biologists have been added to the Game Branch.

MR. MOLGAT: And what is the total staff now?

MR. WITNEY: The total staff now is 76 and it was 74.

MR. MOLGAT: And these two additions have been biologists. Is that correct? Now is the Department undertaking further studies into other species for example, moose and elk say, which are presently fairly well concentrated in certain parts of the province. Are there studies going on in those. . . . .

MR. WITNEY: Yes there are, there are browse studies going on in northern Manitoba and aerial surveys have been taken of the Duck Mountains on elk and on deer.

MR. MOLGAT: What is the situation so far in the Inter-lake with regards to elk and moose. Are there any investigations going in that area?

MR. WITNEY: I know of no elk in the Inter-lake area but I understand that the moose population is at a good level in that area at the present time.

MR. GUTTORMSON: Is the Department considering an increase in the number of game



(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.)..... guardians in the province?

MR. WITNEY: Not this year, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, what is the number of game guardians Mr. Minister?

MR. WITNEY: I'll have to count them, if you'll just hang on a moment. 49.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. MOLGAT: Could he tell us what the salaries cover here please.

MR. WITNEY: The salaries in the air service branch are 42 this year, and 42 last.

MR. CHAIRMAN:.....

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate if there have been any changes there in the equipment. Has there been new aircraft purchased, old aircraft sold?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, we have six Beaver and we have two Otter and we changed our Beaver over -- or our aircraft over after ten years of service. We have recently changed one and obtained a new one and we are in the process at the present time of selling another that had been past the ten year limit and we will be obtaining a replacement for it.

MR. MOLGAT: Could the Minister tell us what is the policy when purchasing new aircraft and when selling it -- old aircraft. Are they purchased on tender; are they sold on tender?

MR. WITNEY: On the sale of the old aircraft they are advertised and sold to the highest bidder, and on the purchase of the aircraft I think they are just purchased from the firm that we can obtain them from. They are not a matter that you can buy such as an automobile.

MR. MOLGAT: I appreciate that you're buying one specific type and you have to buy from the firm that makes them. Now in the case of the resale, when they're sold by tender. These are sealed tenders, open to the public I presume. The same policy as is followed say when we're tendering for road work and so on. Is that correct?

MR. WITNEY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. I am the least offender in this House asking questions on something which sometimes is of more interest -- but I don't blame them, they want to be educated and they are. I mentioned something about the Lands Branch, in earlier hours, dealing with the Minister's salary. I would like to put in -- and it wasn't answered -- I would like to put in two or three questions directly. And this is how much land is still available for mixed farming and settlement with the help of the government? Question number 2, we have three projects now I understand, one is Birch River, Catfish Creek and Washow Bay, and my question is whether other projects are being either considered or now organized? And the last question is -- yes, we'll go home, don't worry about it -- and the next question is that, what is being done to advertise -- I shouldn't probably use the word "advertise" -- but to get settlers-- by the department to solicit settlers on mixed Crown Land farming?

MR. WITNEY: I regret, Mr. Chairman, that I am unable to answer at this time how much land we have for mixed farming. I just couldn't tell you right now. As for other projects, we have the Catfish Creek, Washow Bay, Birch River, and we also have Pasquia project in The Pas area which is nearing completion. No other projects are planned. Now, I'm sorry I didn't get the third part of it.

MR. GRAY: ....how are these projects progressing?

MR. WITNEY: These projects are progressing quite well.

MR. GRAY: But how are they progressing? Are the settlers still on the land? I'm speaking about the three projects now in operation.

MR. WITNEY: Yes, settlers are on the land now, that's right.

MR. GRAY: I mean are there any decrease or increase?

MR. WITNEY: Well, there's a very slow increase. We have had some increase. If you wish, I can give you some figures on it I believe.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman isn't it a fact -- I thought it was, that this particular matter was discussed on agricultural estimates. I certainly have no objections to the Honourable the Minister answering if he wishes to do so, but I thought that perhaps the fact that it came up at that time that the administration of this program had actually been taken into agriculture. Is that correct?

MR. WITNEY: No, the program is being administered still by the Department of Mines

(Mr. Witney; cont'd.)....and Natural Resources. That is right here. Now as to the number of settlers that we have in these areas, I'm sure that I have the figure here somewhere. In the Birch River, total number of purchasers in the project in the Birch River has been 160; in the Catfish Creek there's been 115; and in the Washow Bay area there has been 117; while in the Pasquia area, .....

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, ...the questions for the Minister to deal with. Perhaps he'd like to take the time to look them up, and wouldn't this be a good time to conclude the discussion for this evening?

MR. ROBLIN: I think we're very close. Perhaps we could finish the Lands Branch and stop there.

MR. WITNEY: I haven't got the figure here on the Pasquia settlement ---

MR. GRAY: What assistance is being given to this project as regards drainage, roads and other requirements which the settlers on the projects cannot afford to get themselves.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Chairman, on this particular question, I certainly don't agree with the suggestions of the Honourable Member from Inkster and I'd like to make some remarks on it.

MR. GRAY: Oh, I'm not suggesting anything.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: And I think that the matter of disposing of the Crown lands that we still hold is very important, especially when it comes to the matter of settlement. I would suggest that we rise and report.

MR. ROBLIN: Very well Mr. Chairman, I have no objection with that. If the committee would like to rise, I move -- I'm just too agreeable for words tonight --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have asked me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that the report of the committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Friday afternoon.

NOTE: Mr. Chairman's remarks have not been entered due to microphone failure.