

National Parks Act

to obtain hydropower from the dam. The damage that might be done to the ecology of the country, to the wildlife and to the potential tourist industry is never weighed in the balance.

We have been a wasteful nation in this regard. I believe when it comes to general resource development, all provinces in our nation—and all countries, in fact—should very carefully weigh every aspect of any potential development. We must consider the matter in that way, otherwise we will find that we cause far more damage—as we often have—than the good we derive from a particular resource which we are trying to develop. I wish to read a short paragraph into the record to give an indication of what has happened in resource development everywhere in the world:

• (8:10 p.m.)

If there is anything that history demonstrates it is that an economic raw resource region gets poorer in the process of having its resources extracted. The resource rich regions in the U.S. are the poorest regions. The Appalachian region from Pennsylvania to Alabama produced \$500 billion worth of raw wealth for the markets of the world and yet are the poorest predominantly white region in the U.S.

This applies not only to our neighbour to the south but to regions in Canada where resource development in many instances has not been properly carried out. The long-run results have been devastated areas. I hope that those responsible for our parks will in future try to avoid this situation occurring in our resource areas.

I should like to say a few words about one of our outstanding national parks, Glacier National Park in the Rocky Mountains. The park borders my constituency in the north. The potential of this outstanding national park, which strides the Trans-Canada Highway, is truly tremendous. In it we have a number of timber berths which the government is in the process of buying from the owners. I do not know how far advanced are the negotiations. Last year the government was negotiating, and I hope all the timber berths have been obtained and that the Crown owns the entire land surface within this beautiful national park. I think the matter touches the rights of individuals and I feel that when an area is set aside as a park, adequate and full compensation should be paid for timber berths and the like which have been expropriated. The national government should have complete control over such areas in all ways. I think this is a generally

accepted concept of park ownership in Canada.

Glacier National Park is only one of many parks in Canada and I am talking about it to illustrate my general point. Within the confines of Glacier National Park is a remarkable cave system known as the Nakimu caves. Increasing interest and enthusiasm is being generated over these caves, which I understand are longer and deeper than originally thought. They are an outstanding examples of a cave system, perhaps the best to be found not only in Canada but in the entire western hemisphere. Their development potential, I understand, is currently being studied by the parks branch of the department.

The point I make is that the authorities have known about these caves for years. I understand they were discovered in 1904 by a chap called Deutschman who lived in Revelstoke. Following the custom of the day, he staked two mineral claims around the caves to protect his interests. The following year the Crown purchased these mineral rights for about \$5,000. I think the chap negotiating the sale was the head of one of the national parks in British Columbia. He knew a good thing when he saw it and very wisely negotiated the sale.

In the early days the Canadian Pacific Railway used these caves as an attraction. Glacier National Park has a fantastic background of railway history. As I say, the CPR knew a good thing when it saw it. In the old days before they had the Connaught tunnel under the mountain, the railway went over Rogers Pass. Consequently, people visited these caves and came from all over the world to view this natural wonder. Gradually the caves fell into disuse. Some development work was undertaken but finally, when the depression struck, all work was curtailed and the caves were closed.

In the last few years people connected with the parks branch of the department have explored the caves and found they are far more extensive than was originally anticipated. I wish the government would look into this question because the caves are one of the natural wonders of the nation and would attract people to this national park. Not only is there a unique cave system in the park, but there is also some of the finest scenery and hiking to be found anywhere in North America.

I am worried in case the Crown corporation established under the bill tends to put money into those parks which large numbers of people visit and fails to develop these natural