

Canadian Centennial

campsite anywhere I have travelled and I have travelled quite extensively. On the side of the hill they have approximately 250 campsites laid out and ready for people to camp for the night when they come to that place. The government of British Columbia has done a great deal for people who do not have too much money and has assisted them to have an enjoyable holiday. The development there cost a considerable amount of money. As the province is developing and as the Okanagan valley is becoming a great tourist area something should be done to assist in building breakwaters in that particular area.

Past federal governments have accepted responsibility for the construction of breakwaters. There is one at Kelowna, one at Naramata and one at Penticton. The breakwater at Penticton needs a certain amount of work done on it. At Summerland there is no breakwater at all and since the government has established already a policy of constructing breakwaters it seems to me that one should be provided for the municipality of Summerland. The former member for Okanagan Boundary fought very hard to try to get a breakwater for the municipality. The battle has been going on since 1946, and I hope the Conservative government does not wait 22 years to build a breakwater in that particular area.

The municipal council and the board of trade have been doing what they can to have a breakwater built. Actually there is an economic necessity for it. At the present time there are no facilities whatsoever for small craft or for launching. I urge the minister to do what he can in that connection. Certainly if this committee is set up it should pursue vigorously a policy of establishing breakwaters wherever necessary throughout the Dominion of Canada.

I wish next to deal with the matter of irrigation districts. On December 4 I had occasion to speak in the house in this connection with reference to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act. In the province of British Columbia, and no doubt throughout other parts of Canada, we have irrigation districts. In the Okanagan valley where I reside many orchardists are having an exceedingly difficult time to sell their products. This year there are many thousands of boxes of apples that cannot be sold. The irrigation districts are being pressed very hard financially. For example, in the Kaleden area a survey has been made and it is going to cost approximately \$151,000 to rebuild their irrigation system. That money is required over the next ten years.

[Mr. Christian.]

Furthermore, I should like to point out that the income to the district from tolls and taxes does not meet the annual expenses in respect to the orchard lands. Hon. members can see the difficulty that many of the farmers in the Okanagan valley are having at the present time.

Naramata has a scheme to provide for the rehabilitation of the irrigation and domestic water system. It is a \$300,000 project and the federal government does not assume any responsibility whatsoever in connection with the rehabilitation of that system. The result is that a small irrigation district has to assume responsibility for \$100,000 out of the total amount of \$300,000 and the British Columbia government has already assumed responsibility for paying the remaining \$200,000. Personally I think it is unfair that the province of British Columbia should have to assume payment of the \$200,000. I think there should be participation in an equitable way by the federal government towards the cost of that work. This is another matter that the present government does not do anything about. It is a matter to which this committee could give consideration.

I should like to deal with the important question of housing. I know one particular municipality in British Columbia that has a problem with respect to building a boarding house under the National Housing Act. They wish to sponsor the construction of a home for elder citizens but under the National Housing Act they are not able to do so at the present time. The municipality wishes to provide accommodation in the building for 24 persons in eight double rooms and eight single rooms. The financial history of the municipality is good. Its sinking fund is ahead of schedule and its bylaw payments have been made.

Apparently the existing situation under the National Housing Act is that a limited dividend company has the privilege of going ahead and constructing hostels and boarding houses but that right is being denied at the present time to municipalities, particularly in the province of British Columbia. I believe that at the present time limited dividend companies put up 10 per cent of the total amount of money required, the province of British Columbia puts up one-third and the balance of approximately 56½ per cent is supplied under the National Housing Act.

For the information of the appropriate minister I should like to read certain remarks made by the reeve of the municipality of Summerland. In a letter to me he says:

—when a municipal corporation wishes to undertake the construction of a boarding home type of senior citizen housing . . . it should be entitled