

national capital in a way that is worthy of the nation and fitting to the capital of the nation.

I had deliberately refrained from speaking in the earlier stages of the measure, and in fact I intended not to speak to-night, for the very reason that I wanted to have this measure approached rather as something having the approval of all parties in this house, and to have the measure visualized not as one brought forward by any party having a special interest in the matter or by any members from the particular area having such an interest.

I must say that I felt myself impelled to speak especially when I listened to two speeches from members of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. Perhaps it is putting it somewhat mildly if I content myself with saying that those speeches were distressing; distressing not because the hon. members oppose the bill; that, indeed, is their privilege; but distressing because of the tone of the speeches.

Very early in his speech the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Burton) said that he spoke only for the members of his constituency. He then continued to speak for some considerable time. The only comment one could make about the tone of his speech is that if it is read by any of the electors of Humboldt it will appeal only to their prejudices. I hope that he did not intend that. When he reads his speech I hope that he will see that that is so and that he will seek to correct it at the appropriate moment, as that can be its only effect. I should like to remind him that the citizens of Humboldt are Canadian citizens. They are interested in this country, vitally interested in it, in common with the citizens of all other constituencies. This is a measure having to do with the development of a national capital, their national capital, as well as the national capital of all other parts of the country. When he speaks to his electors, as he promised he would do, I hope that he will approach the subject in that light and that he will remember that hard fact, however much it might upset what might otherwise be an easy speech to make to his electors.

The timing of this bill is particularly appropriate. During the war years it was proper and necessary to lay aside energies which would be devoted to this subject and direct them into more appropriate lines. But in any event, as the result of some activities in which I may properly claim some considerable part along with others, a committee of the two houses of parliament was set up in 1944 to deal with the subject, not of the development of the national capital as such, but with the agreement between the corpora-

[Mr. McIlraith.]

tion of the city of Ottawa and the dominion government. I should like publicly to acknowledge the good work done by the members of all parties on both sides of the house who sat on that committee. I am glad to see the realization of most of the recommendations of the committee and their development into actual legislation and the appropriate steps which are necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the committee.

To-night some reference has been made to the representations from other parts of the dominion. As a representative of a part of the city of Ottawa, I may say that I am wholly in accord with the sentiments expressed, and indeed I took my part, along with others, in suggesting that representation should be given to all parts of the country in order that the matter would be approached in a proper way and not in any section way. But I would point out to the members who have dealt with this subject and apparently share the views I hold on the matter, that they are not wholly accurate in reading the section of the bill in the way in which they do. In appointing the commissioners, the government may appoint thirteen from different parts of the country. Only two of the appointments are to be specific appointments from specific areas. Then there is a provision that five of the others shall come from the maritimes or the western provinces, Ontario and Quebec as the case may be. I would point out that there is nothing to prevent the government from appointing one member from each province, if the proper person is available, interested in the subject and prepared to give the time and energy which are required.

There is one other point I should like to emphasize. In the early speeches to-night a great deal of reference was made to the city of Ottawa as such, and the development of the city of Ottawa. That is not the correct view of this legislation. If hon. members will examine the subject more closely they will find that it deals with the development of the whole district, the capital area, and indeed the greater part of the area is outside the city of Ottawa. I hope that the mistake will not be made of viewing it solely as a city measure, because that is not supported by the facts.

Mr. HACKETT: Does it extend to Hull?

Mr. McILRAITH: Yes. A great part of the property owned by the federal district commission is considerably north of Hull, some ten miles north of Hull. It is fine park land in the Gatineau area, and incidentally