

Supply—Northern Affairs

rebuilt to their original length thus covering up the rocks and piles that are under water. Strangers coming there late in the evening sometimes go down to bathe and in the excitement of the moment, and unaware of the condition, they might dive off the end instead of the end of the piers. It would be very serious for anyone who suffered this misfortune.

I also suggest to the minister that in view of the steadily increasing attendance at Riding Mountain national park—the report for 1952-53 shows an increase in attendance of 75,429 just in one year—more facilities should be provided at the beaches. There is a long pier which is crowded on holidays and Sundays by hundreds of people milling about and jostling each other. After almost twenty years of existence of that pier it might well be considered that a second pier should be constructed. The present long pier is used of course by people who are going on boat excursions and by the launches which take visitors around the lake. It is also used by people who swim off the pier. It is very crowded and tends to be very dangerous for the swimmers with launches coming in and out. Perhaps after twenty years a second pier should be constructed.

I suggest to the minister that, in keeping with developments at other summer resorts, better facilities should be offered for young children. I have seen summer resorts where small slides were provided near the shore for young children. There is nothing at all of that kind at Riding Mountain national park. There is just the beach. There are similar things that might well be done.

In the time of high water a few years ago the walk along the beach that extended for a mile or two was destroyed. It has been repaired in part during the last two years. That again is something that needs looking into so that the standard of the park will be maintained as it was before the war. In some places where the cliff is a bit steep, wooden steps were built down to the shore in the early stages of the park. These suffered from decay, and in some instances they have been taken out and replaced only by gravel. The steps are steep and slippery, and I have wondered why the wooden stairways were not maintained or replaced. These are some of the things with regard to Riding Mountain national park that deserve attention and consideration. In its general appearance it is a credit to Canada. It is a credit to those who have been in charge of the operation over the years, and certainly it is a credit to the gardeners who look after the lawns and flowerbeds. But the standard of the park needs constant supervision and main-

tenance. I suggest the minister make it one of his main items of investigation when he goes there this summer to make final plans for the construction of the bus depot.

Mr. Regier: I should like to say just a little bit about one of the national parks that is under consideration. I should like to say how pleased the people of the lower mainland of British Columbia were at hearing that some active consideration is being given to the establishment of a national park in Newfoundland. However, we would like to point out that there are upwards of 700,000 people living within a very closely confined area on the lower mainland of British Columbia.

Not long ago we had a return tabled in this house including some correspondence that had taken place in regard to this matter. The people of the lower mainland immediately took great interest in the contents of that correspondence. I can assure the Minister of Fisheries that the people there are not going to easily forget the letter he wrote to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, in which he advocated and held forth the possibilities of the area known as Garibaldi provincial park. We were happy also to notice the answer the minister sent to the Minister of Fisheries. The answer indicated that if and when the government of British Columbia was willing or able to build a first class highway to the entrance of Garibaldi park, and if and when the government of British Columbia was willing to offer the unencumbered title to the lands to the federal government, then the minister assured us he would give the matter most sympathetic consideration.

I know we do have some national parks in British Columbia. However, these national parks are hundreds and hundreds of miles away from where most of our people live. Most of our people live in an urban area and many have not the automobile that is necessary to take advantage of the national parks we have. A lot of these people are old age pensioners and people in receipt of war veterans allowance. We have more than our share of these people. They have no park facilities available to them except those provided by the local municipalities. It is true we have the world famous Stanley park. However, when you go there on a Sunday afternoon you are able to see very little because the park is literally overloaded with human beings.

I should like to commend the ministers concerned in this exchange of correspondence. I know that possibly the highway in mind was a Howe Sound highway, leading to the northern entrance of Garibaldi park. I noticed that