

Supply—Privy Council

with the United States over the damages that were supposed to have been caused to vegetation by the fumes from the smelters at Trail. I had heard that all traces of that damage had disappeared in a quarter of a century. I was impressed by the fact that that was so, that things grow out there, and that there were no traces of there having been any permanent impairment.

I was glad to note that the use we were making of our resources did not appear to be depleting them, and that we did not appear to be wasting the heritage of future generations. Up in the lake St. John district I had seen a plant where something of the order of \$125 million to \$150 million worth of metal is marketed each year, to which nothing is contributed from Canadian resources but the water that flows in our streams and Canadian labour; the raw materials are brought in from elsewhere. At Trail I found that those obnoxious fumes, for which damages had been collected after an arbitration, were now being applied to phosphate rock that was brought in from Montana and turned into millions of dollars worth of fertilizer every year.

From Trail I then went on up the Okanagan valley and on to Vancouver. I went over from Vancouver to Victoria, went up the coast of Vancouver island and crossed over to Powell River. I felt that, in getting a firsthand impression of the things that were going on, I was not wasting my time. I had intended to fly over Kitimat about which I had heard some extremely glowing accounts from the president of the Aluminum company; but the weather was such that we could not get in. We went to Prince Rupert and on to Prince George. I think Mr. Pickersgill accompanied me until we got back to Edmonton. I am not sure about that, but I think he did. He did not go with me beyond that.

At Edmonton the only political activity in which I engaged was to make the kick-off in a football match that was being staged that evening; and the ball was set up by Premier Manning. I was in Edmonton a few hours and visited the new chemical industry—I think it belongs to the Cellulose corporation—that is being erected there, and I got several eye-openers about the kind of development that is going on in our country.

I then had a meeting—and that was the only political meeting that had been organized—in the constituency of my friend the hon. member for Portage-Neepawa; but Mr. Pickersgill was not there on that occasion. I was to speak, and I did so, to the Canadian Club in Winnipeg. Mr. Pickersgill had waited for me in Winnipeg on his way back from his visit. He did not proceed with me from there. I was going from there to Hamilton, to the 60th anniversary dinner of the federation of

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Canadian Clubs. Mr. Pickersgill did not accompany me on that visit.

When I am away from Ottawa it is highly desirable that I have some liaison with what is going on here. It was for that purpose that Mr. Pickersgill waited for me on the way out and saw me while I stopped at the station at Winnipeg. After I left Ottawa he had received some communications about which my views were desired by my colleagues before making an answer. During that absence from Ottawa of about a week there were two or three occasions when communication was made to me of dispatches about which my colleagues wished to have my views before returning an answer.

When I am engaged in political campaigning and political tours, I do not take the clerk of the privy council with me, and will not take him with me. I recognize that it would not be proper to do so, and I do not intend to do so. But I do not apologize for what took place when Mr. Pickersgill came down—I think he came down twice when I was at St. Patrick—with bundles of dispatches to go over, and about which my colleagues wished to have my views.

On one of these occasions he met me in the Chicoutimi district and accompanied me while I was looking over these huge power developments that have taken place and are still taking place in that region, and discussed with me quite a large number of matters that were reflected in the official documents he had brought along with him. I have found it very convenient to have his assistance because of his rather wonderful memory and because of the fact that he does remember, as far as I have been able to see, practically everything that has gone on in the prime minister's office since he went in there in 1937. It is very useful to have someone who can almost instantaneously tell one what has been the practice and the procedure and what has taken place and is apt to be affected by what is going to take place.

Mr. Green: I realize that Mr. Pickersgill was formerly the Prime Minister's head secretary, but I do suggest that when he took over the position of clerk of the privy council that changed his duties, and that his duty then was to be in Ottawa acting as secretary to the cabinet. While the Prime Minister is away the cabinet meets, and I suggest that is where the clerk of the privy council should be. Surely there was no necessity for Mr. Pickersgill to help the Prime Minister see the great plant of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company at Trail, the Okanagan valley, the beauties of Vancouver, Vancouver island or Prince Rupert.