

Supply—Northern Affairs

not fit the requirements for park development; a rather large section is a valuable forestry reserve which should best be used in the commercial operations of forestry. I feel that a broader view, an attitude of give and take, would do a great deal to make the utility and beauty of Garibaldi park available to the public of Canada and to the vast numbers of United States tourists who visit the Pacific coast region during both winter and summer months.

One of the first suggestions I would make is that a study be undertaken of the area involved, including those great reaches which stretch into the riding of my colleague the hon. member for Fraser Valley, to see whether these might be returned to the province for use in the forest industry. A little give and take right now on such matters as park boundaries could bring into being a practical, long range development which would do much to meet the needs of the congested lower mainland and contribute in a major way to earning dollars through the tourist industry.

There is one other point I should like to make with respect to Garibaldi park. Only on Canada's Pacific coast are the people of this nation denied the facilities of a national park. I think this is something which might well be kept in mind. I plead again with the minister, and I plead likewise with the officials of the government of British Columbia, to re-enter negotiations in connection with the development of Garibaldi park as a co-operative effort, recognizing the need and usefulness of developing this great alpine area.

Before I resume my seat I should like to ask the minister whether in his reply he would care to comment on certain observations made by his predecessor before the committee on mines, forests and waters two years ago, when the present Minister of Agriculture indicated that studies were under way to bring into being a new program designed for the recreational development of certain areas such as the one I am now discussing. The thought developed at that time, before the committee was that certain limitations existed in the National Parks Act which the minister felt did not entirely meet the needs of development not only in the area of Garibaldi but in other areas of Canada as well.

In winding up my remarks I would do two things. I would ask the minister to say something respecting the progress of discussions regarding the creation and development of these recreational areas in Canada. Second, I should like to repeat the request, supported, I am sure, by people throughout the lower mainland of British Columbia, that another approach be made to the government of the province of British Columbia in a spirit of

[Mr. Payne.]

co-operation, in a final effort to bring to Canada and, certainly, to the people of my province the fruits and benefits of Garibaldi park, which is so badly needed at this time.

Mr. Stewart: I have no intention at this time of holding up the passage of the minister's estimates but I think I would be very remiss if I did not bring to the attention of the minister and of this committee a need which arises in my constituency.

I wish first of all to congratulate the minister on his appointment. This has been my first opportunity of doing so. Through you, Mr. Chairman, I should like to say to him that he brings to his post integrity, honesty and a vision of Canada as it might be and should be in the future. I think the people of Canada can be justly proud of the contribution he has made, and I am sure we all look forward with great assurance to his making a still greater contribution.

We have heard from the far east and the far west as well as from the middle west about national parks and historic sites. If antiquity lends any priority, I should like to tell the hon. members of this house that on a little island in the St. Croix river, in the year 1604, before the west was even heard of or known, Champlain and a small group of hardy settlers spent their first winter in this country, and then moved on to Annapolis Royal to establish the first white settlement on the North American continent. This little island in the river which forms the boundary line between the province of New Brunswick and the great American republic to the south is called Docket's island. It became very important when our good friends to the south attempted later to establish that the "island" in the river mentioned in the old treaty referred to the St. John river and not the St. Croix. However, the discovery of human bones on Docket's island, left from Champlain's voyage, established for all time that the boundary river referred to in the original treaty was the St. Croix. That area has had very important historical significance in the development of the maritime area.

This government has also seen fit to co-operate with the government of the province of New Brunswick in the building of a bridge connecting the state of Maine with the island of Campobello, which will bring an influx of residents and tourists to the area. There is also, in various stages of development, an investigation into the Passamaquoddy development project. I should like to refer the minister particularly to the fact that on this island of Campobello was one of the first settled areas in the maritimes, and the home of the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt