

*National Parks Act*

a time where the prospect and development of natural resources were not as well known and as widespread as they are now.

I am therefore asking the government to review that bill which does not allow a province, once an agreement has been concluded with the federal government, to prospect and develop an area designated as a national park.

If we only showed a certain amount of good will and realism, taking into account the technical facilities we have, the province of Quebec and the federal government could without much delay arrive at an agreement whereby an area of Quebec would be endowed with a national park. The population is right in endorsing the Forillon park project, but we should refrain—and I point this out for the information of the House and to maintain good relationships—from thinking that Quebec objects to that agreement for trivial reasons. This is far from the truth, because, as a matter of fact, all Quebec members are as much interested in that project as I am myself and as is the whole population of Quebec.

The parks at Pointe Forillon and in the St. Maurice valley should be developed in the shortest delay possible for the greater good of the Quebec population.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a few comments to inform the House on the present situation, and to say that we hope that the province of Quebec will also benefit in the near future from the possibility of welcoming a greater number of tourists from other Canadian provinces and abroad. Knowing the benefits derived from national parks in our province, we will be inclined to go and visit the national parks already existing in the other provinces of Canada.

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with satisfaction to the speeches of some opposition members. I will mention only two because not all of them impressed me to the same extent.

The hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) for instance has a most extraordinary sense of humour and a subtlety of expression which should be a lesson to all members.

With regard to Bill C-152, it is mainly on account of the remarks made by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) that I rise now, since he mentioned the St. Maurice valley project. I should like also to congratulate my colleague the hon. member for

[Mr. La Salle.]

Joliette for the impartial way with which he usually deals with subjects in which he is interested. His remarks are non-partisan and truly constructive in view of the fact that his main concern seems to be, as in the case of some other members, to further the implementation of the projects rather than to hinder the action of the government. To play petty politics is an easy thing to do. I thank the hon. member for Joliette for advocating a friendly agreement between the Quebec and Ottawa governments so that the province of Quebec can also have its national parks.

I would even be inclined, as he did, to ask the federal government for some concessions which could also be granted to other national parks in other provinces—and I would not see any objection to that—provided of course that certain standards be maintained and that any Canadian citizen who visits our national parks in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario or Quebec, feels at home everywhere instead of finding himself all of a sudden in some foreign country, where national parks would not be operated in the same way as in his own province.

Bill C-152, to authorize the establishment of a Crown corporation, may have some merit. It may have the merit of preventing the squabbles due to too much partisanship, in Ottawa as well as in Quebec and in all other provinces.

If we were to establish a Crown corporation, independent from politics, provided with powers the exercise of which would be under the supervision of the federal government, perhaps we could come to an arrangement likely to promote the tourist industry in Canada.

There is no doubt that in Quebec national or provincial parks are urgently needed. I echo the comments of the member for Joliette who dealt with the particular situation that exists in the area I represent.

Indeed, the oldest steel industry in Canada is found in my riding. At least, so folklore would have it. The old ironworks of St. Maurice operated around 1756. Not only was gunnery produced but also equipment which could be found nowhere else in Canada. It is therefore a rather extraordinary historical site.

I know very well that in the last few years various committees, including the Chambers of Commerce of my area, have made extraordinary efforts in an attempt to make the best of that tourist attraction which would be located in the middle of or near the national