

possible bases established at many points throughout the country. I remember hearing many years ago that the emperor of Korea who had a great dislike for tall buildings, began to buy up all buildings over a certain height. Some of the servants in one of the legations got on to this and combined to build a tall building near the Emperor's palace with the result that the emperor was put to all kinds of trouble as well as expense in acquiring the property. I do not put that forward as a serious example but just to illustrate, certain traits of human nature being much the same in all lands, what might take place in Canada if the government were to expropriate properties because it was thought foreigners were seeking to take possession of them. For many reasons we have to view with great care the acquisition in a large way by the state of great properties in different parts of the country.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am glad the Prime Minister said that he did not put forward that illustration of tall buildings as a very serious argument.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Only as illustrating human nature.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It may have been human nature; but there are ways of overcoming the vagaries of human nature, and the government should see that this is done. This is what was reported at the last annual meeting of the Consolidated Paper Corporation. The president, Mr. L. J. Belnap, referred to the prospective sale of Anticosti island to parties in Holland who several months ago had secured an option.

Mr. DUPUIS: What was the date?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It was at the last annual meeting of the corporation, and it was reported in the Montreal Star, but I have not the exact date of the meeting. That is something pretty definite. I think we must recognize that there is not a very large number of Anticosti islands or anything of corresponding size that would be likely to be bought up by foreign interests, with the view of forcing the government into the awkward position of having to buy them. Anticosti island is in a unique position.

Further than that, the Prime Minister said just now that he has been in negotiation in regard to this matter with the premier of Quebec. I think we have a right to know what that negotiation involves. Is the Prime Minister prepared to state definitely that this sale will not be allowed to go on?

Mr. DUPUIS: He just said so.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No; he did not just say so. There is another matter involved. The Belnap paper corporation suggests that to the foreign company there should be added some Canadian directors. In that way, I fancy, it would be quite possible to camouflage the whole situation.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like the Prime Minister to tell us definitely as a matter of governmental policy whether this government will allow Anticosti island to be sold to any foreign corporation. I want to get an assurance on that. I do not think that is unreasonable. Otherwise the matter is just going to drift and drift, and then possibly some very interested party will bring very great pressure to bear on Quebec, and Quebec, thinking in provincial terms, might very readily allow the transaction to go through. I introduced the matter first on the orders of the day, because I felt that this was not solely a provincial matter, but rather a matter of dominion importance. I think we are entitled to receive an assurance from the Prime Minister.

Mr. DUPUIS: Did the hon. member ever protest when the same island was for many years the property of a Frenchman, Monsieur Menier.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No.

Mr. DUPUIS: Was not the hon. member then a member of this house?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I was not a member for most of the time that Monsieur Menier held the island, and I think the Prime Minister, at least, will agree that the situation to-day is very different from what it was when this property was owned by a Frenchman. It is now owned by a Canadian corporation.

Mr. BENNETT: In common, I suppose, with other members of the committee I have received many communications regarding Anticosti island. I treated them at first as being the rather extreme views of people who might be regarded as extreme in their attitude of mind towards the transaction, and I awaited further information. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am going to give you and this committee the benefit of the information I have. While possibly some of it may be inaccurate, in the main I think it can be relied upon.

First, there is outstanding an option for the sale of that island. Second, that option was given nominally to a Hollander. Third, a committee of foreigners came to this country