

Canadian World Exhibition Corporation

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Chairman, the meetings which were held between the representatives of the federal government, the provincial government and the city of Montreal were characterized by the greatest cordiality, and it has been agreed that the selection of the site deserved a detailed study on the part of town planners and experts in the matter. Consequently, that study is being carried out at present and will be completed, I believe, within 30 days at the latest. Following the reports which will be submitted to us, we shall then be in a position to determine definitely the site of the fair.

For the time being, we have not yet decided on any particular site, except that it will definitely be located within the limits of the island of Montreal.

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Chairman, the minister has just said that the site of the fair would be within the limits of the island of Montreal. May we expect that it will be in a neighbouring municipality? Will the site be finally selected by the members of the world fair corporation or by the members of the committee which has now been sitting for some time?

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Chairman, the site will be definitely on the island of Montreal, which means that the fair will be held in the city of Montreal or in a neighbouring municipality.

As regards the selection of the site, it will be made by the general commissioner and the directors chosen by him, in co-operation with the members of the present committee.

Mr. Lessard (St. Henry): Mr. Chairman, could the minister tell us what are the dimensions of the area required by the commission at present? Furthermore, could he tell us what minister will be appointed to administer the fair?

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Chairman, as regards the site, it is specified in the bill that it will require at least 500 acres, but actually this figure will be much nearer to 800 acres, and here is why.

In the light of what happened in countries where world fairs have been held, and following the advice given by our experts concerning what we should do to ensure the success of our fair, we have come to the conclusion that one of the main difficulties in the case of previous fairs was the congestion brought about by the great number of visitors. It was found very difficult to get to and from those fairs. Therefore, a lot of time was wasted owing to the lack of means of communication and of parking space. As

we want the exhibition site to be easily accessible, we shall see to it that there are vast parking lots on the site which will be selected.

That is why I mentioned the fact that around 800 acres of land would be required to make this exhibition as successful as we are hoping it will be.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member asked a second question, but I must admit that I have forgotten what it was.

Mr. Lessard (St. Henry): Mr. Chairman, I asked the minister to tell us which minister would be responsible for the administration?

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Chairman, the exhibition shall be the immediate responsibility of the federal government, and here is the reason why: the bureau of international exhibitions wishes to deal with the central government of the country where the exhibition is being held—and I believe they are right in asking this. Moreover, as it was rather difficult to explain to them our confederative system and the reasons why we have three governments involved in this project, we therefore decided that the central government would be responsible for the exhibition with regard to the corporation, on the one hand, and to the bureau of the international exhibitions and to the provincial and municipal governments, on the other hand.

For the time being, your humble servant shall be the responsible minister as far as this exhibition is concerned.

Mr. Lessard (St. Henry): Mr. Chairman, since the city of Montreal is going to start clearing the slums in the Point St. Charles area, does the minister believe that this is an indication that this area might be favoured by the city as the site for this world exhibition?

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I have always been in favour of slum clearance.

However, a distinction should be made between slum clearance and the selection of a site for the world exhibition. The two problems should not be too closely united, if I may say so.

In any case, as I said a moment ago, the selection of a site is yet indefinite and shall only be made after a careful consideration of the reports submitted by the experts on the matter.

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Chairman, the minister has just said that nothing is definite in this regard. However, after the meetings which were held, it seems to me that the minister must have quite definite information.