

*National Capital Commission*

I wish he had submitted it during the 1957 session. Yes I am very pleased it has been done during the current session.

At the same time I cannot but congratulate the Right Hon. Mr. St. Laurent for having appointed, in 1956, a joint committee of the higher and lower houses and the federal district commission, the fruits of which will soon be harvested. I also cannot but recall here former prime ministers like the Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King, the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, the Right Hon. Mr. Borden, as well as one of the greatest men who contributed to the forming of our country, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. They all have very efficiently contributed to the development of Canada's national capital, of the region of Hull and of surrounding districts. I remind hon. members of these names because I am afraid that a number of new Conservative representatives have been thinking that before the session which began on June 10th last year, nothing had ever been done in our country. Indeed, they seem to believe that our country was not born until then. If those people discovered our country only on June 10th last, I may say that they made a fine discovery.

While I am handing out bouquets, may I be allowed, Mr. Chairman, to pursue in the same vein. I have always been interested in the federal district commission, as it was called. We now call it the national capital commission. I want to commend the various successive chairmen of that commission who have all been worthy of this honour, as all interested in the commission, as I have been for a long time, could see for themselves.

My friend the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) refers to it, in English, a "new development"; I do not call it a "new development", in French, but rather a continuation of what was done previously. In fact, it is merely a continuation of what was already started. I am glad to know that we are in a position to carry on the work. I therefore take pleasure in congratulating all who have contributed to the work of the commission previously known under the name of federal district commission.

My good friend from Carleton, according to a report published in the Ottawa newspapers, has claimed that the federal district commission had done nothing. "Nothing was done", he said. I am somewhat nonplussed at a statement like that because I thought he was very well informed. I should like to tell him that no city has achieved so great development, in so short a time, as the capital of Canada, the city of

Ottawa. Anyone who reads the history of any country—I do not know how you say it in English, but, in French, to those who complain that things are not going fast enough, we answer that Paris was not built in a day—will realize that the capital of Canada is bound to continue to develop with time. I congratulate the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith) who said a moment ago that the development of the capital of Canada will not be completed this year but will go on as long as Canada continues to exist.

I congratulate the distinguished town-planner, Mr. Jacques Greber, who has drawn the plan of the federal capital. I was able, during the meetings of the committee in 1956, to ask him whether he believed that Canada and the city of Ottawa would develop at the same rate as during the past ten or twelve years, and his answer was: "Not at all, in my opinion, the city of Ottawa grew 10 years sooner than I expected". I was glad to hear that admission on the part of such a qualified man; that was when the Liberals were in power and, consequently, they had been the promoters of that fast development of the capital city. It has been said repeatedly that Ottawa will be a fine city; I would prefer however that my good friends admit that it is not only the finest city, but also one of the finest capitals that can be found.

Of all the capital cities I have visited—and there are at least seventeen of them—I have never found one as lovely as Ottawa, taking into account, of course its population and the number of years it has been the capital of this country.

I have been to the capital cities of the United States, England and other countries, but of all the cities I have visited none is as beautiful as the city of Ottawa. I have travelled almost the length and breadth of the United States, England, France and Italy, I have been to parts of Holland, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, Egypt and Greece. There is no finer city, anywhere, than Ottawa, and I do not care who says otherwise! And that is not only because of its parks and buildings, but because of the sterling qualities of the people who live here. Whatever their race, or creed or class, they all live in harmony. Nobody will convince me that tourists are not well received in Ottawa.

I am sorry that one hon. member heard from another hon. member that there were garbage cans on the sidewalks. I have been to other cities and I can say to this gentlemen that he could very well begin by looking to his own city. He would probably find garbage