

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THE SENATE,

OTTAWA, Thursday, June 26, 1947.

The Standing Committee on Tourist Traffic, which was authorized to inquire into the tourist business and into the activities of the various provincial and other agencies connected with tourist travel, resumed this day at 10.30 a.m.

Hon Mr. Buchanan in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum now. We had a meeting of the committee some time ago, and decided that, because so many committees were meeting, it would not be possible to have ours until some of the work was cleaned up, particularly as the Immigration and Labour Committee were using the reporters. I found out this morning that the reporters were available, and called the meeting. We have asked the Parks Branch and the Travel Bureau representatives to be here and to present statements to us, and it will be a question as to whether we should have Mr. Dolan of the Travel Bureau or Mr. Gibson of the Parks Branch speak to us first.

Mr. Gibson tells me that his statement will not take much time. We probably may find that Mr. Dolan's case will take up a good deal more time. The question is whether it would be better to start off with Mr. Gibson, Director of the Parks Branch. I leave that to the Committee, to decide as to the procedure.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Use your own judgment.

The CHAIRMAN: My own opinion is that it would be well to start off with Mr. Gibson, if he is not going to take up a great deal of time, so I will ask Mr. Gibson to come forward. Mr. Gibson is the Director of the Parks Branch, and he has a statement which he has passed around, so that each of you has a copy. I have suggested to him that he strike the high spots in that statement; then, if we want to ask any questions, we can.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: I think he should give us a fairly general outline of what it contains. It is very interesting.

The CHAIRMAN: He said it would take about fifteen minutes to read the entire brief. I thought there were some matters in there that he could just touch the fringes of. Go ahead.

Mr. Roy Alexander GIBSON, Director, Lands, Parks and Forest Branch, Department of Mines and Resources: Mr. Chairman and honourable senators: It affords me considerable personal pleasure to appear before this committee of the Senate to discuss the relationship of the national parks to tourist travel, because I know that the senators are very much interested in our national parks, and have shown evidence of that interest.

We have a somewhat cheerful report to present this year. After years of depression and years of war, when it was impossible to do more than maintain these outstanding national properties, we were able to obtain additional funds last year to purchase the equipment that was necessary to replace the worn out and obsolete equipment that we had been using. Consequently our standard of maintenance has improved, and we are able to greet the largely increased number of tourists with better-looking properties.