

estate belonging to municipal and school institutions has shown a drop to date in the park. Progress and development through the building of summer cottages have been paralyzed.

"This tourist hotel, besides having the advantage of contributing to the development of the tourist trade and helping to beautify Gatineau Park, would at the same time be a source of income for the municipality and the school board, a source of income which would enable them to develop in harmony with the outlying areas of the National Capital.

"This tourist hotel would also employ a certain proportion of local labour, which would tend to further aid the population and local trade.

"The construction of such a hotel would give a new direction to the economy of the place, and would also make it possible to co-operate more closely in the aims of the Federal District Commission."

I do not think, nor do the organizations supporting us, that that is a problematical development, but I believe it is a project that is quite feasible and easier to carry out than many other projects of the F.D.C. However, we have not yet had any affirmative reply from the F.D.C., in spite of the request supported by two organizations which represent the entire area in Quebec which comes under the F.D.C. In addition, the Metropolitan Council represents all the tax-payers and voters in this area.

The question of whether the \$1,600 represents, and will represent in the future, the losses of the municipalities should, in my humble opinion and that of the above-mentioned organizations, be judged in the light of all the factors we have endeavoured to set forth.

Masham needs the F.D.C. in order to carry out these projects for its harmonious development. This development, which will complement the Federal District Commission's work of beautification in Gatineau Park and make that area worthy of a National Capital, will allow the municipality to thrive and to progress.

I am inserting here a copy of the letter dated March 7, 1956 in connection with the request of a modern tourist hotel in Masham.

*V—Reply to the statement of Mr. Hay at the presentation of the brief from the Metropolitan Council: the rate of municipal assessment has been equal for all properties in Ste. Cecile de Masham since 1953, whether the property belongs to the F.D.C. or not. There is no specially increased rate for F.D.C. property for the purpose of obtaining larger grants.*

Mr. Hay mentioned, if I am not mistaken, in his reply to the Parliamentary Committee, that several municipalities had raised their assessment on lands owned by the F.D.C. in order to receive larger grants. I take the liberty of differing with him on this point as far as Masham is concerned. As we have mentioned throughout this report, there was a readjustment in the assessment in 1953 and if we compare the assessments of the F.D.C. properties with those of the other residents, we find that the sworn assessors did their utmost to follow the same rate for all properties in Masham, whether belonging to the Federal District Commission or not.

*VI—Pressures exerted in acquisitions by the F.D.C.*

In the matter of prices paid by the F.D.C. for the purposes of obtaining land for Gatineau Park and Masham, it is a recognized fact locally that certain pressures were brought to bear on a good many people, especially residents.

Many chance interviews we have had with former farmers whose farms have been sold confirm these facts in my mind and in the minds of a large part of the population. By way of figures, we offer the following table which seems to confirm this fact. The table makes no mention of the property of