

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

basis; some account is taken of the relative taxable capacity of the various provinces. I know it is not within the power of the minister to do this himself and I do not wish to take away from my approval of what he is doing within the policy which has been enunciated. I should think that the minister as the representative of a province that does not have as high a taxable capacity as the one we are now in would himself be rather sympathetic with this argument.

Finally, sir, I wish to say a few words about the Terra Nova national park. As the minister is aware this park was established by the federal government when his predecessor was in office. It had barely been established when the minister took over and I wish to give the minister credit for carrying on vigorously and aggressively the work of the development of that park. It has been a God-send to the people of Bonavista bay and that area. In a period when other employment has been exceedingly difficult to get there would have been an enormous amount of distress that has been avoided because of the existence of the park. I wish to echo the words of the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond and other hon. gentlemen who have spoken about this matter in saying that I hope the minister will have an even bigger winter work program in the parks next winter than he had last winter because my own opinion is we are going to need it more than ever.

In respect of employment within the park the minister brought down a return in response to a motion I made for correspondence with the provincial government concerning employment there. I should like to say a few words about that and these, too, will be words of commendation of the attitude taken by the minister. It so happened it was for quite some time an obstacle to the establishment of the park that there are a considerable number of people living in settlements like Charlottetown, Happy Adventure, Eastport, Sandringham, Glovertown, Traytown, Port Blandford, Musgravetown and one or two others—

**Mr. MacInnis:** You are slipping.

**Mr. Pickersgill:**—where it was customary—and perhaps that was true of none more than the little settlement of Canning's Cove—for a certain number of people to make a limited part of their annual livelihood by cutting timber in the park. I wish to express my appreciation to the minister for the consideration he has shown to these people in permitting a limited amount of cutting in the last two years. I understand the policy is still

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

being continued with respect to those people who had done this in the past. I appreciate that in the long run the minister does not want this to continue and I do not think any one else does either. But I also appreciate that the minister has many other preoccupations and I know the difficulties involved in getting new enterprises established and this has been an excellent stop-gap arrangement until the parks administration is in a position to provide through its own activities and forest management policies adequate alternative employment for these people.

But there is one thing I hope the minister will not lose sight of and that is the undertaking he gave in the letter he addressed on July 2 to the minister of mines and resources of Newfoundland with respect to those persons. I shall not take the time of the committee in reading this correspondence but will hasten to explain that the minister of mines and resources had written to the minister and asked him if he would give a preference, which the previous administration rather more through verbal conversations than in any other way implied would be given to people who had previously made their living in the park, in employment in the park. I do hope that preference will be continued because it is really quite a serious thing when through the establishment of this park in co-operation between the two governments the livelihood of these people has been taken away.

I know the minister has shown good will in this matter up until now and I merely urge him to continue to do that. When we come to the item on the national parks there will be one or two other questions which I may wish to put to him about employment not only in the Terra Nova national park but in some other parks and they are questions of detail which I do not think it would be reasonable to put on item No. 1.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Chairman, there are a number of questions which I feel should be answered before the vote carries because they deal with general affairs in the department rather than with individual votes. I am going to take the liberty of dealing with these chronologically as they were put forward and even though this destroys the coherence of my remarks to some degree I think it is the only way I could manage to give the information which the hon. members have requested.

The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington speaking on Saturday, I believe, raised the question of the reconsideration on my part of the treatment of Eskimos in the province of Newfoundland. At this time I