

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

within parks, but I do not see how any great problem could be created by this suggestion that I am making.

Another matter which I should like to bring to the attention of the minister is one that I mentioned in the debate on the speech from the throne on November 12 last year, namely the discrepancy in the wages paid to employees of the Cape Breton park as compared with those paid to workers in other parks throughout Canada for the same type of work. I do not know just how the authorities arrive at the amounts that are paid to workers in the park, but I understand that they are based on the prevailing rate for the area, and this is difficult to understand as there is no prevailing rate in this area because there is no industry there. I cannot for the life of me see why anyone working in the Cape Breton national park should receive less money than anyone who is doing the same job, let us say, in the Banff national park. I am sure the minister and his officials have already taken up this matter and I sincerely appeal to them to continue to give further consideration to the suggestion that wage rates in this area be placed on a level with wage rates paid in other national parks in Canada.

I raised another point on a previous occasion and no action has yet been taken in this regard. I trust that the department is giving consideration to the construction of a new club house at the golf course in the Cape Breton Highlands park. We have there, one of the finest golf courses in the country but I am sorry to say the club house is not in keeping with the standards of the golf course.

Although there are other projects which could be undertaken in the area and mentioned now I wish to bring to the attention of the minister and his department and impress upon them at this time only the three most important points I have raised. The first is a request for the initiation of a winter works program for the coming winter. The second is a request for consideration of the expansion of the boundaries of the park. The third is a request for an increase in wage rates paid to employees in the park.

I understand that the period has expired during which the provinces could indicate their willingness to participate in assistance from the federal government in the program of establishing campsites and picnic areas. I urge the minister to give consideration to renewing this invitation so the provinces can further participate in the program. Some excellent work has been done in the province of Nova Scotia as a result of this program and I hope the minister will give sympathetic consideration to the requests I have made in these few brief remarks.

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria).]

**Mr. Rouleau:** Mr. Chairman, all of us realize the importance of the tourist industry in Canada. We had the opportunity to gain further proof of that fact a few weeks ago when we discussed in this house a proposal for joint loans to tourist resort operators. The tourist industry is a big business. It ranks third among Canada's major industries. In 1956 tourists from foreign countries spent \$335 million in Canada while in 1957 they spent more than \$350 million here.

What about the amount of money spent on travel by Canadians? It is quite impossible to estimate it but I am sure to be not far from the facts when I say that at least the same amount of money must be spent each year on travel by our fellow Canadians. If we look at the statistics we realize that for the past ten years, for instance, the tourist industry has developed at a tremendous pace in Canada. The tourist industry which brought in \$270 million in 1948 will probably bring us \$370 million in 1958. Since approximately 90 per cent of our tourist business comes from our neighbour south of the border it provides a source of United States currency of which Canada is always in need.

As I just said our best market for the tourist industry is the United States of America. In 1946 United States travellers spent some \$308 million in this country while \$27 million were spent by visitors coming from other countries of the world. We can increase our market in the United States and at the same time easily create new markets in other parts of the world. We in Canada have everything to offer tourists. The beautiful and diversified scenery of our country from one ocean to the other is second to none in the world.

I am certainly not going to go into detail in an attempt to give a description of every region in Canada. Hon. members with every justification have praised their own ridings in this house on occasion. I wish only to mention the majestic beauties of the province of British Columbia with its mountains, its beautiful cities of Vancouver and Victoria; the grandeur and majestic beauty of the Rockies which are not surpassed by any country in the world; the colourful spectacle of the Calgary stampede; the vastness of the central provinces; the famed Niagara falls for romance; the Queen city of Toronto; northern Ontario and Quebec with their thousands of lakes where fish and game can be found in abundance; our cosmopolitan Montreal with hundreds of attractions of all kinds; the charm of that historic, typical French city, Quebec; the little paradise for tourists which forms the maritime provinces and our St. Lawrence river which is the country's longest inland river.