

National Parks Act

to me that possibly the department intends to develop another national park on the Saint John river. Can the minister give me any information on that?

Mr. MacKinnon: There is no intention at the moment to establish immediately another national park in the province of New Brunswick. The name Fundy was selected, as I said, after a competition among the schools of the province, and was recommended by the government of New Brunswick.

Mr. Nowlan: As to the question which was raised by the member for Royal about the use of the name Fundy, will that include the national park which I understood was to be established in Nova Scotia? Certainly it is rather a surprise to me to know that the province of New Brunswick has a monopoly on the name Fundy. After all, there is as much of the bay of Fundy adjoining Nova Scotia as there is adjoining New Brunswick. I do not want to start an internecine feud between two of the three maritime provinces, but I want to register my protest now against the province of New Brunswick claiming any exclusive title, right or interest in the name Fundy.

Having made that preliminary statement, I now want to ask the minister a question. I noticed in a press report of something that had occurred in another place the fact that the federal government has taken steps to establish a national park near Blomidon. Certainly that is on the bay of Fundy. I had presumed that the amendment included that park, and I should like to know if it only applies to New Brunswick. I should like the minister to say what steps have been taken to set up a park in Nova Scotia at Blomidon, which should be included within the name Fundy and to which reference has been made by his department. I should like to know if the boundaries have been delimited.

Mr. MacKinnon: If I understand the hon. gentleman's question correctly, I would say in reply that this bill does not attempt to include the land in Nova Scotia referred to. There have been investigations by the parks branch officials of the department concerning the area of Blomidon, and at the moment I am not quite sure whether or not a decision has been reached.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the section carry?

Mr. Church: On division.

Section agreed to.

Schedule A agreed to.

[Mr. Brooks.]

Schedule B agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

NEWFOUNDLAND

UNION WITH CANADA—ANNOUNCEMENT OF ROYAL ASSENT IN UNITED KINGDOM—CEREMONIES ON APRIL 1

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Might I have the consent of the house to revert for a moment to motions, in order to inform hon. members that the royal assent has been given in the parliament at Westminster to the legislation providing for the union of Newfoundland with Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. St. Laurent: The applause with which this announcement has been greeted will not appear in *Hansard*, but I do wish to state that it is very satisfactory to find that, although there may have been diverging views as to the proper procedure, there is no divergence whatsoever as to the pleasure with which we receive the news that all the legal formalities have now been completed to make this union effective as from the expiration of March 31, 1949.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. St. Laurent: May I add just a word to answer a question asked some time ago by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Tustin). He asked whether the government was giving consideration to declaring March 31 a national holiday so that all Canada might join in celebrating the entry of Newfoundland into confederation. I replied that it would be premature to announce a celebration at that time, the bill then being still before the United Kingdom parliament.

Now I may say that owing to the very short time remaining before the end of March, and in view of weather conditions at this time of year, and other considerations, the government has decided that no holiday could conveniently be arranged for March 31 or April 1. However, it is planned to hold a simple ceremony here in Ottawa and in St. John's on April 1, and to broadcast these ceremonies over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation system and the Newfoundland stations. A more detailed announcement of the program will be made later on. Should the provincial government of Newfoundland wish to hold a celebration there later in the season, which might perhaps coincide with the opening of their legislature after their provincial election, the Canadian government will be happy to co-operate.